



YOUNG AT HEART

Griff Rhys Jones tells Valerie Grove why he hasn't settled down
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PLAY THE £50,000 GAME

See how your players are performing
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LIBBY PURVES

on grown-ups behaving badly
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WIN A FILM-LOVER'S SHOPPING SPREE

PREMIUM LINE ENTRY PAGE 14

Fiancée witnessed car chase murder

Driver dies in 'road rage' stabbing

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A YOUNG father has died after a passenger in a car he overtook stabbed him at least 15 times and slashed his throat at the end of a three-mile chase along unlit country lanes.

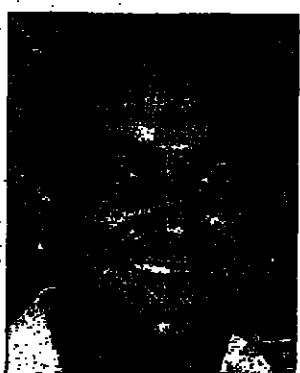
Lee Harvey, the fifth man to die this year as a result of road rage, was left bleeding from multiple wounds in the middle of the road as his attacker's car drove off. He died in the arms of his fiancée, who was slightly injured.

Detectives were last night looking for the shabby F-registered Ford Sierra that chased the couple between Burcot and Alvechurch in Hereford and Worcester, late on Sunday night. Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston said: "You could call it road rage, to us obviously it is murder."

Mr Harvey, 25, and his fiancée, Tracy Andrews, had been on their way home from an evening out in their white Escort RS2000 when they overtook the Sierra along the A38 near the Forest pub house. The other driver gave chase, flashing his lights, driving bumper to bumper and exchanging obscene hand gestures with Mr Harvey.

The pursuit continued along unlit single track lanes until the Sierra overtook Mr Harvey, who either decided or was forced to stop in Cooper's Hill, a few hundred yards from his home. As Miss Andrews looked on from the car, the two drivers argued, pointing their fingers and shouting.

The confrontation appeared



Lee Harvey: stabbed then throat was cut

to end and the Sierra driver returned to his car. But as he did so, his passenger climbed out and attacked Mr Harvey, stabbing his head, neck and upper body. He continued to slash his victim after he fell to the ground and when Miss Andrews tried to intervene, she suffered a cut eyebrow. The Sierra then drove off, leaving Mr Harvey to die in the road.

Superintendent Johnston said Mr Harvey did not appear to know his attackers. "This was a vicious, vicious crime. This was a sustained and vicious assault, there are some 15 wounds to the head, face and body, and clearly that must indicate some loss of control and vindictiveness."

Superintendent Johnston appealed to the Sierra driver and another passenger, who were not involved in the attack, to come forward. The killer was described as a very

overweight white man aged about 25 who was wearing a dark donkey jacket. The slim driver looked much younger, was about 5ft 6ins to 5ft 8ins tall with short dark hair. Their car was thought to have left the road three-quarters of a mile further down the lane and would probably have a damaged front nearside.

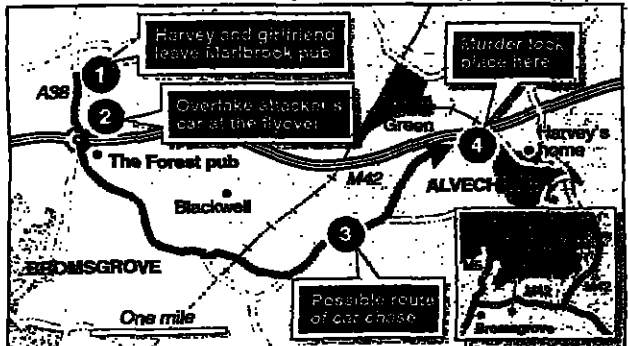
Mr Harvey, a former bus driver, and Miss Andrews, 27, had been engaged for two years and shared a flat in Alvechurch with their two children from previous relationships — Mr Harvey's five-year-old daughter, Danielle, and Miss Andrews's daughter Carla, who is six.

The killing is the latest in a series of road rage attacks and has marked similarities to the murder in May of Stephen Cameron, who was also stabbed and left bleeding to death in front of his fiancée. Mr Cameron was killed after he and the driver of a Land Rover Discovery got out of their vehicles to argue at traffic lights on the M25 sliproad at Swanley, Kent. Police are still seeking Kenneth Noye, who was cleared of murder after killing a policeman in the 1980s, in connection with the attack.

Other road rage victims include a cyclist who died after banging his head on the ground when a taxi driver swerved towards him. The taxi driver was last month jailed for 4½ years.

In May, a passenger was shot dead in London after the car he was travelling in did not stop after a minor accident, and in February, another passenger was beaten to death with a steering wheel lock in an argument about flashing headlights.

Other incidents have led to a doctor being jailed for pulling a starting pistol on a passenger in a dispute over a parking space, and another driver was jailed for five years after biting off another's nose and breaking the hip of a woman who tried to help.



Lady Scott at her Battersea home yesterday some hours before the meeting to consider her husband's future

I'm on the wagon, says Scott

BY ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR NICHOLAS SCOTT, the Tory MP, rose at 6am yesterday to reveal in a series of radio and television interviews that he had given up drinking. The information, however, was aimed at wavering supporters in the Kensington and Chelsea Conservative Association rather than at viewers of BBC breakfast television, and was part of a carefully contrived strategy.

A group of 12 of Sir Nicholas's closest constituency supporters had gathered at his home on Sunday morning for a meeting to rehearse the best line of defence and attack. "He was told to fall on his sword, admit he had drunk too much in the past, but say he has since fought to conquer the problem," one Scott supporter said.

After Sir Nicholas, 63, a former minister, had breakfast with his wife Cecilia and eight-year-old daughter Amber at his Battersea home, he was collected by a BBC car at 7am and taken to the BBC's Millbank studios for an interview on the Radio 4 Today programme at 7.20.

Today was chosen because so many members of the association listen to it.

Sir Nicholas stuck to the script agreed on Sunday, blaming his drinking on stress associated with being a Northern Ireland minister in the 1980s. "I have drunk very, very little over the past 18 months," he said. "It was a problem at one time. I think Northern Ireland started it."

"But my wife and I have discussed it very seriously. I have given her an undertaking that I won't drink in future. I shall renew that pledge to the association tonight."

Lady Scott, whose offer to speak at last night's selection battle had been rejected at the strategy meeting, listened at home. Sir Nicholas then moved into a nearby studio for the BBC breakfast television cameras. He repeated the line about press distortion of the incident in which he was found face down in the street at this year's Tory Party conference.

He insisted that he now drank "mainly" orange juice and fizzy water, having cut down on alcohol. This was necessary, he said, "because a

couple of years ago I think I was drinking too heavily. I didn't have a drink problem, but I was drinking too heavily."

Sir Nicholas was arrested for drink-driving and failing to stop at the scene of an accident 18 months ago. He was convicted last March. In the interview he added that anyone who knew him knew that he had limited his drinking "in the main" to orange juice and fizzy water.

Sir Nicholas then moved to a third studio to record a programme for BBC Westminster. He was driven back to his home to continue working on his opening and closing speeches to the meeting of the association. The telephone was switched off all day to ensure that he was not interrupted.

At midday he was collected by car for a lunchtime interview on ITN. The invitation to appear on BBC Newsnight was kept in his desk drawer. It would be accepted only if he won last night's vote.

Sir Nicholas returned to Battersea for a quiet lunch. In mid-afternoon he and his wife went for a long walk in Battersea Park. They returned



Sir Nicholas Scott

home to polish his speeches to the association and also drafted a winner's and loser's statement.

Daniel Johnson, page 16

Clarke refuses to budge on EMU policy

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
AND CHARLES BRENNER
IN BRUSSELS

KENNETH CLARKE yesterday set his face against changing the Cabinet's wait-and-see policy on the single currency after reports that the Prime Minister might attempt to do so before the general election.

The Chancellor appeared to be locked in a trial of strength with a Cabinet majority as he gave a warning that ditching the present stance of leaving options open at the election would be both "senseless" and "preposterous".

Mr Clarke, at a meeting of European finance ministers in Brussels, took several opportunities to dismiss fresh reports that John Major was trying to abandon the wait-and-see line before the election and go to the country on a pledge to save the pound. He stopped short of threatening to resign if the policy changed but his words raised serious doubts over how he could stay if he were to be overruled.

However, Downing Street officials, while emphasising that the policy remained unchanged, appeared to be leaving open at least the prospect that it could be reviewed before the election. They said the Government would "take a decision on EMU (European monetary union) when it was appropriate to take a decision".

Informed sources close to the Prime Minister, however, emphasised last night that he was unlikely to change the policy. In April when the Cabinet decided on staging a referendum on the single currency, Mr Major said in an official statement that the Government would be "keeping our option open at the next election". When he reaffirmed that policy on October 5 in an

Continued on page 2, col 1

Halifax holds mortgage rate

The Halifax, Britain's biggest building society, is resisting pressure to follow Abbey National and lift its loan rate.

Halifax is holding mortgage rates at 6.99 per cent in spite of the move by its biggest rival to lift loan rates by a quarter percentage point. Increases by the Coventry and the Northern Rock brought to five the lenders that have put up rates. Page 27

Bullied clerk wins action

BY ADRIAN LEE
AND FRANCES GIBBS

LAWYERS predicted a surge of legal actions over bullying at work after a solicitor's clerk yesterday won a landmark private prosecution against his former employer.

The £200-a-week clerk, Joel Parkes, took out summonses against Robert Layton, a sole practitioner in Acton, after being sworn at and grabbed for failing to photocopy court papers. Layton was convicted of assault after Haringey magistrates in north London heard

that he went red with rage, shouted obscenities and struck Mr Parkes on the shoulder. The solicitor now faces a Law Society investigation and possible disciplinary proceedings which could lead to him being struck off.

Mr Parkes, 36, brought the action after the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to press charges. Two witnesses working at the same firm declined to give statements to police. But Mr Parkes issued summonses and both were forced to give evidence.

Awarding £30 compensa-

tion and £785 costs to Mr Parkes, who is now studying to become a solicitor, magistrates rejected a claim by Layton's counsel, Anthony Arledge, QC, that it was a trivial incident that happens in offices "day in, day out".

Lawyers are predicting a rise in legal actions over bullying at work. Last week new research for the Institute of Personnel and Development showed that one in eight people had been bullied in the past five years. More than half of those said

Continued on page 2, col 4



"Dad, are things happening at the office that you want to talk to us about?"

More students struck by meningitis

TWO Southampton college students were diagnosed as having meningitis yesterday. They bring to eight the number of cases since November 16. Two more occurred in October. A York University student also has the disease.

Ann-Marie O'Connor, 19, from Acton, and Samantha Milroy, from Stockport, have died of the illness at the University of Wales, Cardiff.

Parents grieve, page 6

Moira Stuart dresses up the news in genes

BY CAROL MIDDLEY
AND NIGEL HAWKES

THE BBC television presenter Moira Stuart yesterday became the latest celebrity newsreader to join the ranks of the so-called "great and good".

Ian Taylor, the Science Minister, announced she had been appointed as a "human face" to the Human Genetics Advisory Committee.

Last year Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, appointed ITN's Trevor McDonald as chairman of the newly

created Better English Campaign, a steering group with the serious aim of declaring war on sloppy standards. Nick Ross, a Radio 4 presenter and anchorman of BBC Television's *Crimewatch UK*, is now considered an authority on crime prevention. In 1993 he was invited on to the National Board for Crime Prevention and is an active member of the Crime Concern National Youth Campaign.

The Channel 4 News presenter Jon Snow combines his full time job in television with chairing several charities. Nicholas Witchell, the BBC newsreader,

is involved with several charities, and Anna Ford is patron of the Turville Trust, an organisation set up to build a holiday centre for deprived children in Buckinghamshire.

But perhaps the busiest of the celebrity newsreaders is the BBC's Martyn Lewis, who at the last count had put his name to no fewer than 17 charities.

The Human Genetics Advisory Commission will be chaired by Sir Colin Campbell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nottingham. Its first meeting is expected to be early in the new year.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

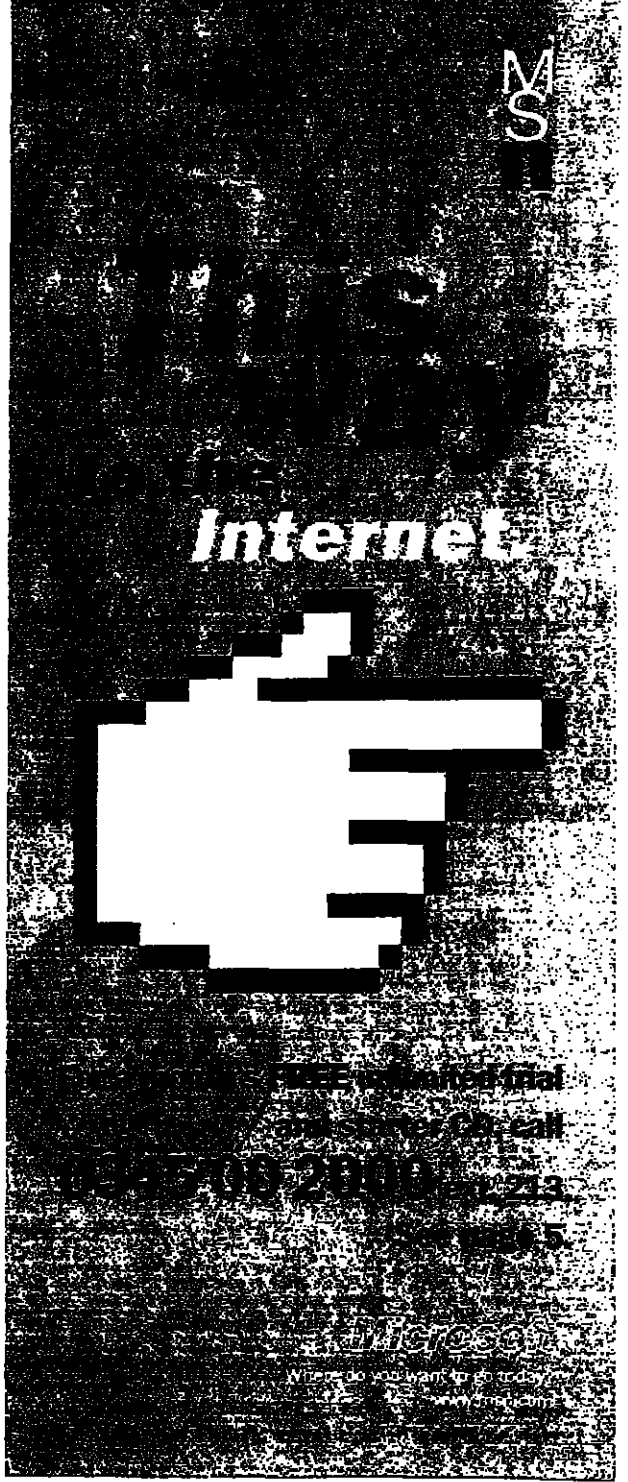


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Speaker spoils the fun after MP invokes insulting tradition

"CAN I ask our blond and blue-eyed — if not exactly Finnish — Secretary of State, with his balding and brown-eyed junior minister..."

Rhodri Morgan got no further. "These personal remarks," protested Madam Speaker, "have no place in this chamber." She told Morgan to rephrase his question, avoiding unpleasant descriptions of the Welsh Secretary, William Hague, and the junior minister, Jonathan Evans.

But as personal remarks go, this windy, burbling, frizz-

haired, crag-faced sub-Patrick Moore of a Labour spokesman on Wales was mild at Welsh Questions yesterday. Contrast his gentle mockery with Mr Evans' predecessor as minister at the Welsh Office, Rod Richards (Clwyd NW). Speaking of Welsh Labour councillors, Mr Richards said: "They're all the same: slimy, short, fat and fundamentally corrupt."

"When I hear that name," the Prime Minister is said to have remarked of Euro-rebel Sir Richard Body (C, Holland

with Boston) "I hear the sound of white coats flapping." The quip was not meant to be repeated, but that is a risk any politician runs. "I wish that cow would resign!" muttered the (then) Northern Ireland minister, Richard Needham (C, Wiltshire N) into his (insecure) mobile telephone. Margaret Thatcher took it well, observing only that if this was the worst they said, she could live with it.

Over the past year, I have been assembling a mountain of clippings recording the



things politicians come to wish they had never said. A fellow-mischief-maker called Phil Mason — a magpie of parliamentary archives — has helped, and together we have compiled an anthology going back centuries.

The Baroness Thatcher comes out of any selection of unwise personal remarks with

dignity: the butt of much abuse, she herself was rarely personal. A personnel report, rejecting her for a job with ICI in 1948, noted: "This woman is headstrong, obstinate and dangerously self-opinionated."

Some 40 years later, President Mitterrand said that she had "the eyes of Caligula and the lips of Marilyn Mon-

roe". Calling her "empty-headed" on the Middle East, Jonathan Aiken explained: "She probably thinks the plural of sinus is Sinal." Aiken must now bitterly regret the jibe.

Labour's Tony Banks, who accused her of "behaving with all the sensitivity of a sex-starved box constrictor" regrets little. Sir Edward Heath hardly regrets replying (asked why Mrs Thatcher hated him so much) "I cannot say. I am not a doctor."

It is the prerogative of the great to be rude about each

other: Herr Kohl took with good humour a greeting from Bill Clinton at a Nato summit in 1994: "I was thinking of you last night, Helmut, because I was watching the sumo wrestling on TV."

Along with his "white coats" remark, Major doubtless regrets calling some of his Cabinet colleagues "bastards" and "scoundrels". All three men had been grinning happily. Miss Boothroyd was simply spoiling the fun.

Read My Lips is published by Robson Books.

Clarke

Continued from page 1 article in *The Times*, Mr Major said Britain should stay in the negotiations to defend its national interest and prevent the rest creating a failed EMU.

But the Downing Street sources said it would be wrong to read any differences into the April 5 and October 5 statements. They were both based on the likelihood that the time to make a decision about EMU entry would be after the election. An informed source said that reports to the contrary were "wishful thinking."

Mr Clarke was questioned about Mr Major's reported desire to ditch the wait-and-see policy when he arrived in Brussels. His response was uncompromising. "I don't believe that for one moment anything of that kind is being contemplated. It simply isn't going to happen."

But he pleased the sceptics by succeeding in Brussels in winning guarantees that rules on the euro and the stability pact would not apply to Britain outside a currency.

For once, Britain had little to do with the tension among EU ministers yesterday, as Theo Waigel, the German Finance Minister, flexed Bonn's monetary muscles, holding out against the wishes of all other states except The Netherlands, to allow a measure of political latitude in the stability pact. But by last night Germany was edging towards a compromise on the circumstances in which a government would be fined, for spending too much.

Towns 'face invasion of giant lorries'

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

A NEW generation of 44-tonne "super lorries" could be allowed unfettered access to the main-road network from 1999 under proposals released yesterday by the Government.

The current tight restrictions on the Continental-style six-axle juggernauts would be dropped between 1999 and 2001, according to a consultation document from the Department of Transport.

John Watts, the roads minister, said the move would take 6,500 smaller lorries off the roads as hauliers switched to the larger vehicles. The lorries can currently be used only for journeys between rail freight depots.

Mr Watts said that the six-axle trucks would cause no more damage to roads, bridges and buildings than 38-tonne lorries — the biggest currently allowed — because the load would be spread over six rather than five axles.

Environmental groups said the proposals spelt disaster for Britain's country towns and villages. Since the last increase in lorry weights — to 38 tonnes in 1983 — lorry mileage had increased by 30 per cent and freight mileage by 42 per cent, said Lynne Sloman, assistant director of Transport 2000.

"All research suggests that heavier lorries are more dangerous and intrusive," she said.

Britain's largest rail freight company, English, Welsh &

Scottish Railway (EWSR) also attacked the plan, claiming it would lose 20 per cent of its business, the equivalent of a million truck journeys a year, to truck firms.

The Government is obliged under European legislation to allow 40-tonne lorries on the roads from January 1999 and favours extending the use of the vehicles, which are widely used on the Continent. Ministers believe the arguments for the larger lorries are unanswerable but have decided to carry out full consultation.

The Freight Transport Association said that the vehicles would save more than 300 million litres of fuel each year and would result in fewer lorries and less congestion. The freight industry about £300 million a year — a drop of nearly 8 per cent on the cost of operating the present heaviest vehicles.

EWSR said the transfer of goods from rail to road would result in thousands more lorries per year pounding through country towns and villages. Historic towns such as Marlborough and Devizes could see an extra 24,000 lorries a year, the M74 through the lowlands of Scotland an extra 47,000 lorries a year and the A6 through the Peak District an additional 19,000 a year, according to its calculations.

Letters, page 17



Joel Parkes, who won a private prosecution for bullying

Bosses face rise in bullying claims

Continued from page 1 bullying was commonplace at their workplace.

Melissa Compton-Edwards of the institute said: "Bullying behaviour typically consists of unfair and excessive criticism, publicly insulting the victim, ignoring their point of view and constantly changing or setting unrealistic targets."

Legal actions over bad treatment by bosses — whether bullying, harassment or

overwork — are being categorised as "stress" claims and are likely to be brought in the civil courts.

Tania Sless, a solicitor with Davies Arnold Cooper, says there could be as many as 130 stress claims pending, although many may be settled out of court. They have been prompted by two rulings: in 1994, John Walker, a social worker, received £175,000 in settlement of his claim for a nervous breakdown caused by pressure of work. In 1995, Paul Pickering, a police officer, won an increased pension after proving he had been disabled by stress at work.

Bill Earnshaw, lecturer in employment law at the University of Manchester, says bullying claims are common in the United States. "Some may call these cases victimisation or persecution, but I would classify them as bullying in one form or another."

After yesterday's hearing, Layton, a solicitor for 16 years, said he would consider appealing. Mr Parkes, who is working for the Legal Aid Board while studying, said: "It was a nightmare working there. All I wanted was to see him in court for what he did."

Mr Parkes said he had arrived for work on May 17 to be confronted by Layton, who accused him of not having carried out work and began swearing violently when given an explanation.

"He punched me on the left shoulder and pulled me back as I was going past him. He raised his fist. It was a fight that was beginning. It was out of the blue. I pushed him and said 'Don't you touch me!'"

Another solicitor, Raymond Berretto, stepped between the two as Layton lunged again. Mr Parkes said "Bob was swearing and cursing, trying to get round him. He was growling and snarling with both fists clenched like he wanted to fight."

Under cross-examination by Mr Airdge, Mr Parkes accepted that the blow was landed with an open hand.

Mr Airdge said: "Is not Mr Layton, in the ordinary give and take of office life, as his employer, entitled to take hold of his arm?" To classify this as an assault would be "quite ludicrous," he added.

Adverts for bingo to be allowed on TV

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

BINGO operators are to be allowed to advertise their clubs and prizes on radio and television and in cinemas under further government plans announced yesterday to lift restrictions on the gaming industry.

Betting shops will also be permitted to advertise their facilities in the printed media but not on radio or television.

The move was welcomed by big companies in the industry who claim their business has been hit by the success of the National Lottery and Fear it will be further damaged by the imminent arrival of a midweek lottery draw. Under the proposals, the ban on the advertising of bingo on radio and television, including the amenities offered by clubs and the prizes to be won, would be lifted.

Advertisements would be required to conform with guidelines laid down by the Independent Television Commission and the Radio Authority and would not be allowed close to children's programmes. Betting shops will be allowed to advertise in newspapers, magazines and listings guides.

Simon Clarke of Ladbrokes said the move would particularly benefit small bookmakers. But he added: "All bookmakers are still urgently pursuing deregulation measures which will address the damage being done by the lottery and the threat posed by the arrival of a midweek draw."

The announcement is the latest in a series of initiatives designed to cut the red tape surrounding the gaming industry. Last month the Home Office published proposals to allow casinos to open in some of England's cathedral and spa towns, permit prospective members of casinos to apply for membership by post rather than in person and to give members access to other casinos within the same group. Payment is also to be allowed by debit card and the waiting time between applying for membership and being allowed at the gaming tables is to be halved to 24 hours.

Timothy Kirkhope, a junior Home Office Minister, said the latest measures were well-balanced. "It is time we allowed betting shops to advertise their locations and for bingo, which is a social 'soft' form of gambling, it makes sense to remove all the advertising restrictions in the gaming legislation which would mean operators could use broadcast media."

"I believe we are putting forward sensible and balanced proposals which will be of benefit to both bingo and betting shop customers and the respective industries. The plans will be put to the deregulation committees in both Houses of Parliament before going ahead."

The Government is still considering whether to allow public houses to open until midnight on Friday and Saturday nights after a consultation exercise disclosed deep divisions over the plan. Unless ministers move quickly it is unlikely the longer opening hours would be operating before the general election.

Labour drops pledge to end fundholding

Chris Smith, the Shadow Health Secretary, will announce today that Labour has dropped its opposition to GP fundholding and has abandoned plans to replace the scheme in the immediate future. Mr Smith is expected to tell a health conference in London that Labour will still allow family doctors to continue buying health for their patients.

Labour has traditionally opposed this NHS reform, claiming it results in two-tier health care. The party's draft manifesto published in July said: "We will replace GP fundholding with GP commissioning." Concern from GP fundholders, who now care for more than 50 per cent of the population, has prompted Tony Blair to soften the policy.

Ulster beatings increase

There have been 276 so-called punishment beatings in Northern Ireland so far this year, Sir John Wheeler, the Northern Ireland Security Minister, said. This is 59 more than the whole of last year. Of the attacks, 118 were by loyalist groups and the other 158 by republicans. The figures do not include punishment shootings. The Prime Minister said last week that an end to the beatings was a key condition to be met, with a ceasefire, before Sinn Féin would be allowed to enter all-party talks. Dirty tricks claim, page 6

Murders suspect held

A man who told police that he murdered two British women tourists on a beach four years ago is in custody in South Africa. Elijah Noam Sibuya, 24, told police that he had hacked to death Julie Goodwin, 32, and Elizabeth Over, 30, on the deserted beach in Sodwana Bay on the north coast of KwaZulu/Natal in November 1992. Magistrates in nearby Ubombo yesterday declined to accept the plea of guilty by the suspect and recorded one of not guilty, adjourning the case until December 23.

City tightens security

Armed police are to set up road blocks in and around Manchester in the run-up to Christmas as part of efforts, involving some 7,000 officers, to prevent a repetition of the IRA bombing of the city in June. Assistant Chief Constable Malcolm George said yesterday: "At the moment there is no specific intelligence to suggest Manchester city centre is an IRA target this Christmas, but we cannot afford to be complacent." There will be a free confidential hotline to encourage people to report suspicious activities.

No action against police

Police officers involved in arresting an asylum seeker who died after being put in a neck hold will face no disciplinary action, the Police Complaints Authority said. An inquest jury ruled earlier this year that Oluwesolajimi Lapite, a Nigerian decorator, was unlawfully killed. He died after a struggle with police as he was arrested outside a club in northeast London in December 1994 on suspicion of possessing cocaine. Mr Lapite later collapsed in a police van and was driven to hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

University head retires ill

A former director of the Victoria and Albert Museum is to take early retirement as Vice-Chancellor of the University of East Anglia, after having multiple sclerosis diagnosed. Dame Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, 58, left will leave when a replacement is found. As the museum director from 1988 to 1995, she drastically improved visitor figures but attracted criticism for being too "populist".

Airport fire safety fine

An airport was fined £12,500 for putting passengers' safety at risk by blocking off a fire exit during building work. If an emergency had occurred travellers would have headed to a marked fire exit at Luton airport only to find a sign saying "Entry strictly forbidden — contractors only". Luton Crown Court was told. Beyond the door they would have encountered a building site, with scaffolding, heavy machinery and numerous obstacles. The airport admitted charges under the Fire Precautions Act.

The cream of waterbeds

A Dutch company is seeking a patent for the cattle waterbeds that it claims will boost milk yield. About 180 of the water-filled rubber mats, which can be heated, have been delivered to a dairy farm in England. The farmer is so pleased with them that he has ordered another 100. "It is good for a cow to lie comfortably," a salesman for the Dunlop-Enerka factory said. "Cows can be compared to top athletes. Under the best circumstances they will give their greatest performances."

US aims to beat jinxed Mars record

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS from the American space agency NASA this morning hope to improve on the chequered record of recent missions to Mars.

Nasa's Global Surveyor, launched on November 7, is on its way, albeit with a defective solar wing, but Russia's Mars 96 ended in the Pacific Ocean soon after launch on November 16. "One near-miss, one miss and now it's our turn," said Curtis Clevon, today's launch operations manager for Mars Pathfinder. "We're all a little nervous. At least I am."

Mars Pathfinder contains a lander and a small robotic rover called Sojourner. It is due for launch just after 7 am this morning on a Delta rocket from Cape Canaveral, the timing determined by a flight plan which will take it direct to Mars. If all goes well it will arrive on the planet's surface on July 4, next year, Independence Day.

It will plunge towards the surface at 17,000 mph without tarrying in Mars orbit, open a parachute and then, just before impact, inflate two airbags and fire retro-rockets. When it hits, it will bounce, roll and tumble, the airbags at each corner protecting it from damage. It could

take several minutes to come to a halt. The bags will then be deflated and "petals" will open up to support the spacecraft and turn it right side up. It will take pictures, transmit data, and allow the six-wheeled Sojourner to leave down a ramp on to what should be a flatish floor of a dried-up flood plain.

Sojourner, with its battery of "test instruments," is designed to last for only about a week, though if the electronics survives the constant hot-cold cycling of the Martian day and night it may go on for longer. At \$196 million, Pathfinder is a low-cost mission, far less ambitious than the doomed Mars 96.

"Don't really understand the world behind travel insurance"

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TIN1

Businessman dissolved body in acid for crime better than an Agatha Christie, court told

Husband 'boasted wife was victim of perfect murder'

By A Staff Reporter

A BUSINESSMAN boasted that his wife's disappearance had been a perfect killing, a court was told yesterday. Russell Causley was alleged to have said it was "better than an Agatha Christie murder".

In 11 years, no trace of his wife Veronica has ever been found. He said she had run away after he moved his young mistress into their Bournemouth family home. In fact, Winchester Crown Court was told, her domineering husband had apparently killed her "with a shot of gas" and her body was dissolved in acid. He denies murder.

Anthony Donne, QC, prosecuting, said that Mr Causley lied to friends about his wife's whereabouts, and got his lover to forge her signature to make it look as if she was still alive.

It was only when Mr Causley, 53, found himself in prison for an insurance fraud that he bragged to another inmate about his undiscovered crime, it is alleged. He was also said to have talked with another prisoner about whether it was possible to be convicted of murder if no body has been found.

Mr Donne told the court: "He was not only ruthless in getting rid of his wife, he was

also entirely determined to get his own way. He is a clever, devious and cunning man. Having murdered her, he got rid of her body in such a way that it would never be found."

Mr Donne said that the businessman had married in September 1965, when his bride was 20. His surname then was Packman. They had a baby girl, Samantha, four years later, but the young mother was prevented from having contact with her own family. The first they knew of their grandchild was when the family made an unannounced visit. Her parents saw her just once more, in 1976, when again the family arrived without warning. They last heard from her in the summer of 1985 when, Mr Donne said, she "disappeared off the face of the earth".

The jury heard that the businessman had met his 25-year-old lover, Patricia Causley, when he opened an insurance business in Bournemouth in 1984. A few months later she had sold her flat and moved into the family home. After his wife's disappearance, he took his lover's name.

Veronica, then 40, vanished in June 1985 while her hus-

band and their teenage daughter were on a day trip to London. Her wedding ring was discovered on a note in the kitchen saying she could take no more. Upstairs her favourite ballgown was discovered slashed to pieces. But Mr Donne said that very few of her personal effects had gone missing, and she had left her Rolex watch and jewellery. Later it was discovered that no suitcases had been taken.

Mr Donne said: "Samantha remembers going with her father to London to meet Patricia Causley for lunch in the summer of 1985. She does not recall seeing her mother in the house. When they returned, she saw her mother's wedding ring in the kitchen and a note in her handwriting."

Later that month, the court was told, Mr Causley wrote to his solicitor saying he wanted his divorce to proceed on a 50-50 basis, and that he wanted to buy his wife's half of the house. In the letter he said: "She was not amused and walked out soon after". He claimed she had taken £20,000. He was said to have told friends a number of stories about where his wife had gone, for example that she had



The wife who vanished: Veronica Packman with her daughter, Samantha, and husband Russell, now on trial

gone off with a rich German, or that she had gone missing "with a guy in a red Porsche". He claimed she was in Switzerland, Malta and Germany, and that he had given her £30,000 as a settlement.

Mr Donne said that when one friend asked why he had not sold his house, Mr

Causley told them it had something to do with Veronica which would take seven years. Mr Donne told the court: "This is the time that presumption of death is made."

It was in 1990, said Mr Donne, that Mr Causley and his lover began transferring the house into their own

names. A woman telephoned a solicitor in Southampton, Hampshire, claiming to be Veronica. Later a woman arrived at the office and pretended to be her. It was really Patricia Causley, said Mr Donne.

In Brixton Prison, Mr Causley allegedly confessed to murder in a conversation with

a fellow inmate, who later told a probation officer. Later, Mr Causley was transferred to Ford Open prison, where he told another inmate: "I put her away peacefully with a shot of gas and put a plastic bag over her head. I used acid to get rid of the body." The trial continues.

Police seek man after wife is shot dead

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE were last night looking for the estranged husband of a woman shot dead at a house where a children's birthday party was being held. Thomas McGhee, 53, had chased his screaming wife across a street after she fled to a neighbour's house.

Yesterday a white Vauxhall Astra car belonging to Mr McGhee was discovered abandoned six miles from the scene of the attack at Kimberley near Nottingham.

Police said they wanted to trace Mr McGhee, from Hinckley in Leicestershire. "He should not be approached," a police spokesman said. Relatives of his wife, Janet, have been moved to a secret address for their protection.

Mrs McGhee, 47, who has a young daughter, was chased by her husband as she ran from her home shortly before the shooting on Sunday evening. A witness said: "There was a boy's birthday party in the house she ran into. She was terrified and screaming."

"The children must have seen what happened because the gunman shot through the door. He shot her again and she died inside the house."

George Wood, another neighbour, said: "I heard two loud bangs. At first, I thought it was a car backfiring. When I looked out of the window I saw this chap running away down the driveway carrying a shotgun. He sped off in a white car."

Police protest as girls get two years for fatal kicking

By Lin Jenkins

TWO schoolgirls were ordered yesterday to serve two years' detention for kicking to death a girl who came to the aid of her friend in a fight on the way home from a funeral.

Louise Allen was pulled by the hair and kicked in the chest before falling to the ground where she was kicked in the head as a group of about 30 teenagers gathered to watch. She was killed by one of seven kicks to the head, described as being of only moderate force.

The victim's mother, the local MP, and police officers involved in the case reacted angrily to the sentence, claiming it was too short. Both girls were remanded in custody on May 21 this year and will be released after serving a year.

Detective Chief Inspector John Cordner, of Northamptonshire Police, said he would investigate what legal steps could be taken to have the sentence increased. "I am extremely disappointed," he said. "As a deterrent I would have expected more than a two-year sentence."

Ellen Allen, 35, the victim's mother, said: "They should have got at least four or five years."

William Powell, Conservative MP for Corby, said: "This case will have to be looked at by the Attorney-General who will obviously consider very

carefully whether to appeal for a stronger sentence."

The two girls, then aged 12 and 13, stood impassively in the dock at Nottingham Crown Court as Mr Justice Hadden told them: "It was wicked violence and it resulted in the totally unnecessary death of that young girl."

Both girls, from Corby, had been involved in one of a number of fights in the town while the funeral was visiting. On the evening of April 29, the 12-year-old started a fight with one of Louise's closest friends. She appeared to be winning and, with about 30 teenagers watching, Louise intervened and tried to pull the aggressor from her friend.

In a statement read to the court one girl told how she heard Louise say "I can't watch this any more," before she went to help. The 13-year-old pulled Louise away by the hair and kicked her in the chest. As she fell to the ground she was again kicked.

The witness added: "You could see she was not moving and it was like she was having an asthma attack. Someone shouted, 'What have you done?' The 13-year-old replied: 'Don't really care.' The 12-year-old went over to Louise shouting at her: 'Why did you jump into my fight?' The witness said: "Then she kicked her in the side of her head. The kick was quite hard."

Both girls left the scene. One was arrested later that night and the other the following morning. Both had admitted manslaughter at an earlier hearing.

Dr Clive Bouch, a Home Office pathologist, told the court that although Louise had seven bruises to her head, the largest was the fatal blow. He said the kick was of moderate severity and in most cases such a blow would have caused only minor injury. It was an "unlucky chance" that the injury proved fatal.

Both the girls responsible were said to have been bullied at school and were not aggressive.

Cot-death charity founder denies theft

By Paul Wilkinson

A YOUNG mother defrauded almost £37,000 from the charity she founded after her child died from cot death syndrome, a court was told yesterday.

Susan Howe set up a "cunning, calculated fraud", using a secret account. Donations paid into the charity's bank account were transferred 71 times to four others in the name of her partner, Kevin Sullivan, Liverpool Crown Court was told.

The thefts came to light when Iris Whitaker, Mrs Howe's administrative assistant, stumbled across a paying-in book and chequebook for the concealed account. Geoffrey Lowe, for the prosecution, said Mrs Howe told her the "welfare account" had been set up because of a £2,000 donation from *The Sun* to buy headstones and pay for funeral arrangements for bereaved families. It was a separate account because the paper had demanded anonymity, she told her.

Mrs Howe, 43, and Mr Sullivan, 40, from Formby, Merseyside, deny 19 charges of theft totalling £36,872 over 21 months from May 1992. Mrs Howe had founded the Cot Death Society after the death of her son in 1977. Its aims were to provide babies with breathing monitors and families of cot death victims with advice and counselling. She met Mr Sullivan in 1988 when he started as a fundraiser. Eventually he became a trustee and they set up home together, from where the society, a registered charity, was run.

Mr Lowe said that early in 1994 Mrs Whitaker began to suspect that money meant for the society was not going into the current account, although she could not understand how. Then on January 26, 1994, she came across the cheque book, and paying-in book for the welfare account.

When Mrs Howe was interviewed by police she claimed that the society owed her money.

The hearing continues.



Louise Allen: died after trying to help friend

Prayers for long service award

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

FOR 300 determined worshippers a marathon Church of England service that lasted five hours left them on their knees and probably in the record books.

The Guinness Book of Records is to investigate claims that the service qualifies for an entry as the longest in the Church of England.

The service, in four churches in the London diocese, with the congregation walking three miles in a procession between the churches,

comes at a time when vicars are advised that sermons should be no more than 12 minutes and services no longer than an hour. Received wisdom in the Church of England is that most congregations cannot take more than one hour of worship.

The London service, taken by the Right Rev Brian Masters, the Area Bishop of Edmonton, was extended to allow the licensing of the Rev Nicholas Wheeler as priest-in-charge of four separate parishes in Camden, north London.

The Rev Jonathan Kester, the bishop's chaplain, said

most worshippers lasted the course. He felt "invigorated" rather than exhausted at the end. "People's attention was kept throughout," he said.

The service, on a Saturday, began at St Michael's in Camden Town. One hour later Father Wheeler, who is an Anglo-Catholic, is on the Church's traditionalist wing, was licensed again, at St Paul's chapel near by. From there the worshippers went to St Pancras Old Church where after more hymns and another licensing, the service entered its final hour at St Mary's Eversholt Street, next door to Euston station.

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B&Q Environmental Update



Dr Alan Knight - B&Q's Quality & Environment Controller

Over six years ago, we put into place a planned programme to reduce the environmental impact of every product we sell.

This is our fourth annual update covering all the main areas of environmental activity during the past year and describing our plans for the future.

Timber & Forests

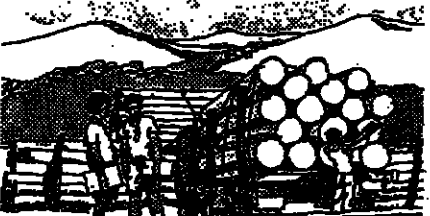
In 1991 we set two targets:
By the end of 1993: to have identified all the sources of our timber products down to forest level - achieved for over 98% (by volume).
By the end of 1995: all our timber products to come from well managed forests - only 1.5% of timber by volume failed.

Collecting and evaluating the data has been an intensive exercise involving one person working full time for over four years.

Independent Forest Certification - the best way forward

How can we be sure that timber is from well managed forests?

Until now evaluation of timber sources was dependent on 'internal scrutiny' - desk top studies and occasional visits to forests. The weaknesses are obvious, but it was all we had. But not anymore: we, like many other organisations, realised



back in 1990 that a more robust and credible system was needed. Forests must be independently certified. By working together B&Q and many other companies and environmental groups created The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)



© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council Ltd. 094/96/01

The role of the FSC is to set the principles of good forest management and ensure that certification across the world operates to the same standard. We believe it currently represents the only credible system capable of operating globally.

Customers are just beginning to see the FSC trademark on timber products in our stores and as these become more widely available we hope marketing campaigns from other retailers (including competitors) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) will help customers recognise and buy these products in favour of non-certified products.

Products available at B&Q which have already been independently certified:

PRODUCT	SUPPLIER	COUNTRY
Exterior Doors	Chindwell	Malaysia
Charcoal	Charan Aldred, Rectella	South Africa
Interior Doors	Premium Timber	Poland
Edge Laminated Pine Boards	Premium Timber	Poland
Cabinet Doors	Premium Timber	Poland
Wooden Door Furniture	Douglas Kane	Poland
Parquet Flooring	Western Cork	Zimbabwe

Certification initiatives are also underway in other countries such as Ivory Coast, Ghana, Sri Lanka, UK and Sweden.

Some producers have genuine forest management problems and real practical problems to overcome. Others are simply reluctant to support the concept of certification. We shall continue to explain to them why we believe it is important but if they are not convinced we will have to buy from elsewhere.



Target - By the end of 1999 the only wood we buy will be from independently certified forests.

Paint

One in three pots of paint sold in the UK for domestic use is bought from a B&Q store. We believe that between 0.6% and 2% of all solvent emissions in the UK could be from paint bought at B&Q.

The figure is large enough for B&Q alone to make an impact on the overall reduction of solvents. Solvents contribute to low level smog, climate change and can aggravate asthma. They also have an unpleasant smell. The future can be solvent free and where technically impossible, low solvent paints are the answer.

The first stage is already underway. We are working with our suppliers to ensure there is a clear and precise message on every single can of paint we sell. At the moment, this is not the case.

From a total of 123 products there was the following confusing array of labels:

Claim Type	Claim	No of products
ODOUR	Low odour	66
	Low in odour	3
	Lower odour	5
	Lower odour formula	5
	Less odour than conventional glass paints	2
	Much less odour than ordinary emulsion	2
	Low aromatic solvents reduce odour	2
	No unpleasant odour	2
	TOTAL	87
WATER BASED	Waterbased	40
	Economical waterborne	1
	Waterborne copolymer emulsion	5
	Waterbased acrylic	1
LOW SOLVENT	Solvent free	6
	Free from solvents	4
	Solvent free waterbased formula	2
	Low solvent	5
	Low solvent formula	1
	Very little organic solvent	1
	Solvent based, the use of water based alternatives should be considered	1
	TOTAL	20
OZONE	Ozone friendly	6
	Contains no fluorocarbons	3
	Contains no CFCs	4
	TOTAL	13
LEAD	No lead added	10
	No added lead	1
	Contains no lead	7
	Contains no lead additives	1
PLANTS & ANIMALS	Harmed to plants	5
	Harmed to animals	1
	Harmed to plants and animals	1
	Harmed to plants and pests	2
	Plant and animal safe	1
	Harmed to plants when dry	2
	Harmed to plants and pets when dry	1
	TOTAL	13
RECYCLING	25% recycled steel	12
	Recyclable	13
OTHER	Environmentally friendly	1
	Lower environmental impact in manufacture	2
	Official Sponsor WWF	7
	TOTAL	10

When we finalise our policy at the end of the year we will start phasing out claims such as 'environmentally friendly'. We have also worked with suppliers to agree a standard format for displaying the solvent content of all products.

Proposed Target - End of 1999: to reduce solvent emissions from B&Q paint by 30% (using 1996 figures as baseline).

As part of this process we will start introducing new products with a lower solvent content.

Target - December 1996: to finalise details of policy.

Target - End of June 1997: to have new labelling system in place.

Target - July 1997: to launch customer communication programme.

Charcoal

All our imported lumpwood charcoal is currently certified and next year all our new stock of briquettes and barbecue kits will be certified.

Charcoal production can help our forests in the UK. By working with the Bio



Development Group, it has been possible to sell charcoal from coppiced woodlands in the nearest B&Q stores.

Last season local charcoal was on sale in 120 stores.

Target - by summer 1997: to buy locally produced charcoal for virtually all stores.

Target - by the end of 1997: to have 50% of UK sources of charcoal independently certified.

Working Conditions in Developing Countries

Working conditions in developing countries is a difficult and emotional issue. The most publicised example is the abuse of child or bonded labour. However, we believe the issue is more complex than just child labour. We have seen factories where as well as environment controls, health and safety can also be improved.

We have worked with suppliers to introduce basic health and safety measures in coir door mat, rug and brassware factories in India. We visit factories and if required request improvements. The scale and complexity of our supply base makes this a huge initiative.

By the end of 1996 we plan to finalise a method of audit and random follow up visits using local specialists for our entire Indian supply base. This will be used as a trial for similar initiatives across the world.

It will be several years before we are satisfied with the working conditions in our factories. However, we firmly believe working with our suppliers is the only way forward and is preferable to bans or boycotts which result in more hardship for the workers.

PVC

PVC has long been associated, rightly or wrongly, with dioxin contamination during PVC production and waste incineration. Also many PVC products contain phthalates. This chemical has been connected with the decline in fertility rates and the feminisation of some animal species. Some environmental campaigners are trying to persuade businesses to phase out PVC altogether. The industry has responded by focusing on the benefits of PVC and questioning the validity of the scientific theories. The issue facing B&Q is that both points of view have merit.

The science is ambiguous and there is as yet no consensus as to the true extent of the problem or to the solution. We will not take sides - but we want to do what is right for the environment.

We shall be financing a PhD student to work on this issue for three years to focus on reviewing the literature and relating it specifically to the B&Q product range. Chemical analyses will be undertaken as and when necessary. We will act on the research findings as soon as key facts are identified.

What of the other issues? Supplier Assessment

There are so many issues for B&Q to resolve, we cannot resolve them all alone. We must get all our suppliers involved. Since 1991, it has been company policy for all our 600 suppliers to have an environmental policy, backed up by an action plan. By the middle of 1994, over 95% of our suppliers had a policy - an improvement of 85% since 1991.

Building on that progress in July 1995 B&Q launched a supplier assessment programme called QUEST which included both quality and environmental performance. QUEST, which stands for the Quality, Ethics, Safety & Treatment of products, measures suppliers on ten key quality or environmental principles.

The extensive amount of information which needs to be processed has caused bottlenecks, but despite this we know that QUEST is the correct approach. Any suppliers not meeting a certain grade will not have any new products listed until they have addressed the problem concerned. Continued inaction will result in a company being de-listed. Of our existing suppliers, 30% have been reassessed and the average grades for the five environmental principles are:

QUEST 6

Average grade: 3.4
Environmental Policy and Awareness
Suppliers' understanding of the environmental issues associated with their products and their commitment to resolving them is graded by assessing the suppliers' published environmental policy.

QUEST 7

Average grade: 3.2
Environmental Action and Achievements
To ensure that a supplier's environmental achievement does not consist of only writing a good policy, suppliers' achievements are awarded a separate grade for action.

QUEST 8

Average grade: 2.5
International Supply Chains
B&Q believes that the issue of poor working conditions in factories in developing countries are a significant issue for retailers. Therefore suppliers' understanding and commitment to this issue is awarded a separate grade.

QUEST 9

Average grade: 3.9
Packaging and Environmental Claims
The suppliers' ability to meet all the possible future legal requirements to minimise the amount of packaging used and design for recycling is jointly assessed with the accuracy and benefits or problems caused by any environmental claims on a product.

QUEST 10

Average grade: 3.5
Timber
The suppliers' ability to meet B&Q's present and future requirements of its timber policy and targets.

This is based on existing Grade A = 5, Grade B = 4, Grade C = 3, Grade D = 2, Grade E = 1 and 592 suppliers as of 1/8/1996.

B&Q Store Performance - Waste Management & Local Agenda 21

We have the potential to make vast improvements in our own performance in terms of reducing our waste, recycling unused materials and working with the local community. This not only helps the environment but also saves us a small fortune!

Our Huddersfield store has formed a partnership with Kirklees Metropolitan Council addressing waste and energy management, staff awareness, customer communication plus community projects.

The store's waste minimisation initiative has involved donations of waste items to local schools and the staff together with Kirklees Metropolitan Council have cleaned up the stretch of the River Colne adjacent to the store.



The intention is to use this example as a case study to encourage other stores to become involved with their local authority's Local Agenda 21 programme. Agenda 21 is a global environmental action plan signed by the Government at the Earth Summit in 1992. All local councils are responsible for delivering improvements such as waste minimisation, energy efficiency and environmental enhancement.

QUEST for stores

In October we started to trial a new procedure for assessing the environmental performance of stores. This is based on QUEST for suppliers. There are 10 principles on which stores are graded.

1	Staff Awareness
2	Waste Legislation
3	Zero Waste
4	Litter Control
5	Customer Recycling Facilities
6	Energy Management
7	Customer Communication
8	Environmental and Community Interaction
9	Environmental Awareness of the Management Team
10	Enthusiasm of the Environmental Officer and Support from the Management Team

Forty stores are taking part in the pilot but it is intended to be available for all our stores by the middle of next year.

The more problems we solve, the more we find to solve

This is a summary of our actions. The complexity of the issues is immense and we know there is more we can do.

If you would like more detailed information, please fill in the coupon by ticking the relevant boxes and send it with a stamped addressed envelope (at least 21cm x 22cm) to: Dr. Alan Knight, B&Q plc, 1 Hampshire Corporate Park, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, Hants, SO53 3YX.

☐ **How Green Is My Front Door?**
(120 page environment review)
July 95, 75p SAE

☐ **Timber Update**
(poster)
February 96, 25p SAE

Information on B&Q's environmental programme can also be found on our site on the Internet. The address is <http://www.diy.co.uk>

B&Q

Reporting on our impact on the environment.

Former Smith lets court know why he's miserable now

BY RICHARD DOUCE

SONGWRITER Stephen Morrissey treated the less well-known members of the pop band The Smiths as "mere session musicians as readily replaceable as the parts of a lawnmower", the High Court was told yesterday.

While he and Johnny Marr, lead guitarist, each took 40 per cent of the profits, Mike Joyce, the drummer, and Andy Rourke, the bass player, got 10

per cent. Joyce, 33, has launched a legal action claiming that his share of past profits could amount to as much as £1 million which he believes he is owed by Morrissey and Marr. He is also claiming a 25 per cent stake in royalties from any future sales instead of the 10 per cent he has been offered.

The Smiths were one of the most influential bands of the

1980s, renowned for Morrissey's doom-laden lyrics and mournful Mancunian delivery. Their hit singles included *Heaven Knows I'm Miserable Now* and *Girlfriend in a Coma*.

Nigel Davis, QC, for Joyce, said it was not until after the bestselling band split up in 1987 that his client discovered he was getting only 10 per cent of the profits. "It may be that some will say this claim is a cynical piece of opportunism prompted by the dissolution of the group. We submit that's not fair. Mr Joyce's case is that it was only when the group dissolved he went to see his accountant and was told that he'd been getting only 10 per cent," Mr Davis said.

Rourke, who will be giving evidence in the four-day hearing, settled with Morrissey and Marr in the late 80s for £80,000 and 10 per cent of future royalties. Mr Davis told how the band was formed in Manchester in 1982 and broke



The Smiths at their moodiest: the singer and lead guitarist got 40 per cent; the drummer and bassist 10 per cent

up after "achieving very considerable" success. "They released a number of highly successful albums and highly successful singles. Their CDs continue to sell."

He said that Morrissey, who wrote the lyrics for the songs, and Marr, who wrote the music, were "clearly entitled" to the royalties from the group's songs and there was no dispute over that. But royalties for the recordings and profits from concerts by the group were paid to a company called Smithdom

Limited and Mr Joyce is claiming that as a partner he was entitled to a quarter share. "Now that it is admitted there was a partnership agreement between the four members of the band, the presumption is one of equality," Mr Davis said. However, both Morrissey and Marr "place emphasis on how much more important they were for the group."

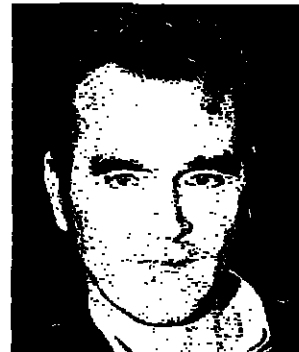
"They had the highest profile so far as the public were concerned but it would seem they'd go further and claim

they are much more talented. They seek to play down the importance of Joyce and Rourke. They seem to disparage them, saying they were mere session musicians."

Mr Davis said it was "wrong to rubbish" Rourke and Joyce's contribution. The court was told that after Joyce raised the matter with Morrissey in 1988 they subsequently received £270,000. The Smiths' popularity was based on the eccentric public image of Morrissey, who is now pursuing a solo career.



Mike Joyce, left, and Andy Rourke at court yesterday



Morrissey yesterday

Successful gardening at a stroke

By ROBIN YOUNG

TICKLING the rubers and stroking the strawberries could be the key to success in the garden.

Scientists at Sussex University have shown that plants respond to touch. In most cases, regular stroking or brushing will stunt upward growth and produce more branches, leaves and flowers. Gail Taylor, lecturer in plant biology, is also studying the effects of stimulation on runner beans "to see if stroking them can make them crop more heavily".

The effect is known in the plant world as thigmomorphogenesis or thigmotropism. It has been put to use in Japan and Holland, where nurserymen already use mechanical brushing systems to massage small seedlings so that they grow more compact and robust.

What is happening, Dr Taylor said, is that tactile contact, mechanical perturbation, vibration or disturbance alters the polarisation of membranes in the plants' cell walls, opening channels for the flow of calcium, which is important in most plants in controlling growth.

Princess homes in on people with no castle

By DOMINIC KENNEDY AND ALAN HAMILTON

DIANA, Princess of Wales described homeless young people as "Englishmen without a castle" yesterday. She left Kensington Palace, one of her two homes, to launch a Christmas appeal on behalf of runaway children before hosting a ballet performance for 200 guests in St James's Palace.

On a day in which she looked clearly at ease with her new role as a former member of the Royal Family, the Princess palpably enjoyed herself, demonstrating once again that she has lost none of her innate ability to attract the cameras and to bask in their attention.

She spent her morning highlighting the plight of runaways as young as 11 who have turned for help to Centrepoin, the homelessness charity, this year.

"If an Englishman's home is his castle, then what happens to that Englishman

Adebowale, Centrepoin's new chief executive, and exchanged whispers with him while other guests addressed the invited audience.

Later she met ten homeless people including Jason, 20, who first ran away from home aged 13. After being smacked by his mother, he used to fill bin liners with clothes and disappear for a few days to sleep in a workman's hut in a nature reserve in Winchester. He was taken into care, fell into debt to drug dealers and fled from them to London where he slept rough until being guided towards Centrepoin.

Later, for the first time since her divorce in August, the Princess hosted a function at St James's Palace, headquarters of the court of which she was once the leading light and where her former husband still keeps an apartment and his office.

The Princess, who is patron of English National Ballet, led 200 of the company's supporters and their guests in watching leading dancers, including the Hungarian Zoltan Solymosi, perform extracts from *The Nutcracker*, *Don Quixote*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Unrequited Moments* in the Palace's Picture Gallery. Later the Princess and her guests sat down to dinner in the Palace's Throne and Entree Rooms.

Under the terms of her divorce, the Princess is allowed to use St James's for entertaining with the Queen's permission. By coincidence, the Princess's last visit to English National Ballet was on August 28, the day her divorce absolute was issued by the Divorce Registry at Somerset House. As a court official signed the papers, the Princess watched the first day of rehearsals for the autumn ballet season.

St James's Palace is used frequently by the Prince of Wales to host receptions on behalf of his wide portfolio of interests and charities. Even while she was married, the Princess used its state rooms only occasionally on her own behalf. The Palace, however, remains familiar to the Princess: her small private office remains there for the time being until alterations are completed at Kensington Palace, her London home, to allow it to move there as specified in the divorce settlement.

Next week the Princess is scheduled to address an international meeting of leprosy associations in London on Monday, before flying by Concorde later the same day to attend a charity ball in New York.



Diana, Princess of Wales at Centrepoin yesterday

when he has no home?" the Princess asked at the charity's annual meeting. "And if that Englishman is young — perhaps midtwenties, early twenties — what greater risks will confront him?"

Homelessness was not confined to the festive season but was a daily problem for many in our towns and cities, the Princess told the charity's supporters. "Neither are the homeless made up of 20 and 30-year-olds who have had their chance at life and failed miserably. The age of homeless youngsters is coming down. Children as young as 11 called on Centrepoin this year. Some had been running from physical and emotional violence, some from sexual abuse."

She concluded: "As the season of goodwill swings into gear I hope that all of us will be mindful of the Englishman who doesn't have a home to withdraw into."

The Princess made notes during a speech by Victor

Taking refuge in law

THE origin of the cliché "an Englishman's home [or house] is his castle" is legal, not literary (Philip Howard writes). Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634), Lord Chief Justice, who defended Charles I's royal prerogative, coined the phrase. "A man's house is his castle, et domus sua cuiusque tutissimum refugium" (and everyone's home is his safest refuge). And again: "The

house of everyone is to him as his castle and fortress, as well for his defence against injury and violence as for his repose." The Englishman's home is less of a castle than it used to be. Various public authorities have the right of entry under certain conditions. And the Englishman's castle may even be taken over and destroyed, consequent upon a compulsory purchase order.

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Council censured over Masonic link with developers

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

FREEMASON councillors have been censured for the first time by the Local Government Ombudsman in a report that discloses extensive links between the organisation and the Conservative Party.

Investigating complaints that Masons made up a majority on a committee that approved three planning applications from fellow Masons, the ombudsman took the rare step of naming three of thirteen councillors for failing to declare an interest.

Since the office of ombudsman was set up in 1975, there have been more than 30 complaints about undue influence by Masons on councils, especially in planning cases. All of them have been rejected but public concern about Freemasonry has led to the publication of nine reports, even though this is not normal practice when a complaint has not been upheld.

The latest complaint concerns planning applications to Castle Point District Council in Essex between 1991 and 1994. The report found that eight members of the planning committee were Freemasons and that the partner of a ninth member was employed by one of the developers. A tenth committee member belonged to the same Conservative association as one of the developers whose home had been

used for fundraising functions.

The original application was by a Mason who sold the property concerned, at Carvey Island, to his son, also a Mason. The son later submitted two amended plans for a motel, car park and public house on the 1.2 acre site. His partner in the development was a Tory activist and close friend of another committee member.

"Rightly or wrongly Freemasonry is generally viewed with suspicion among non-masons, not least because of the secrecy attached to 'the Craft'," Jerry White, the Ombudsman, says in his report. "Knowing that a councillor and a planning applicant are Freemasons and members of the same Lodge, members of the public could reasonably think that such a private and exclusive relationship might influence the member when he came to consider the planning application."

The ombudsman felt that the applications would all have been approved, even if the councillors had declared an interest. He ruled therefore that the two residents who complained that the development had spoilt the value of their adjacent properties had suffered no injustice and awarded no compensation.

However, he found that

"some [council] members had little or no regard for the code [of conduct] they had undertaken to observe in circumstances which could only fuel suspicion and mistrust of the way in which the council went about its business".

Bill Sharp and Ron Sweeting, councillors who were members of the same Lodge and Chapter as two of the developers, were named for failing to declare an interest and were found guilty of maladministration. Elizabeth Wood, a committee member whose husband was a councillor in the same Lodge as one of the developers for 15 years, was also named and found guilty of maladministration because she did not declare an interest.

Mr Sweeting, 71, said: "He named us just because we are Masons. We are all completely innocent. There is no law against being a Mason and we have done nothing wrong anyway. There is nothing to answer for. Nobody suffered. We influenced nobody. Planning permission was approved by the government inspector."

Commander Michael Higgins, chief spokesman for the Freemasons, said that "by now the message ought to have gone out that they ought to declare an interest in this sort of case".



The first of 2½ million volumes is put in place in the basement by Simon Leavey, foreman of the removal team

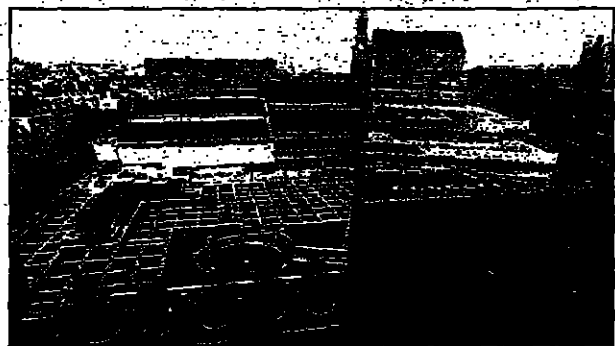
Book opens new chapter for library

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH

AFTER 11 years of construction, countless delays and a barrage of criticism, the new British Library took delivery of some books yesterday. They were the first of 12 million volumes to be moved over 2½ years. The first reader will not be admitted until this time next year: the library should have opened in 1993.

Among staff there was a distinct sense of relief that the building, at St Pancras in London, was finally being put to good use. The first book to be placed on a shelf deep in the basement was *The Oxford Book of English Traditional Verse*, hastily produced by Brian Lang, the library's chief executive, to replace a rather more obscure offering from the first crate.

Mr Lang was said to be leaving behind the famous round Reading Room at the British Museum in Bloomsbury, where the likes of Marx, Thackeray and Shaw had worked. But the new library



The British Library will have cost £511m when finished

would be a roomier and more comfortable environment for both scholars and books. The reading room was "a Victorian space designed with Victorian technology" and now unsuitable for storing books. "Storing them here increases their lifetime by a factor of four or five."

On hand to welcome the first batch were Harold Pinter and Lady Antonia Fraser. "I'm very excited," the playwright said. "I think it's a great tribute to the endurance

of the people who work for the British Library who have put up with all the things that have happened in the past few years. It has hardly been their fault and the criticism has been very unfair." Pinter, who has donated a number of his manuscripts to the library, added: "I won't be coming here to work as I'm a playwright and don't have to research for my work. But I shall come to browse."

His wife, however, had spent hours in the old library.

"I have been going there for 43 years, since I left Oxford, and I hope to be one of the first in the new library. I felt quite exhilarated walking across the piazza in the sunshine this morning."

The library should have opened three years ago but delays have meant that the humanities reading room will not open until November next year and the full library until June 1999. The most precious historical artefacts, such as Magna Carta, Lindisfarne Gospels and a copy of the Gutenberg Bible, will be on display to the public from spring 1998.

The new building, designed by Colin St John Wilson, was first discussed 50 years ago. The final bill will be about £511 million. Inspectors found more than 230,000 defects in the construction, including electronic book shelves that ejected books on to the floor, inadequate fire protection systems and a ceiling that had to be rebuilt because it was too low.

Bishop of Argyll may return

Roderick Wright, the former Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, who is living in the Lake District with Kathleen Macpherson, a divorcee, could still be a priest, according to the Most Rev Thomas Winning, the Archbishop of Glasgow. "I wrote to Roddy and told him the door is always open," Cardinal Winning said.

Kray's denial

Charlie Kray pleaded not guilty at Woolwich Crown Court to conspiracy to import cocaine worth £78 million. Mr Kray, 70, from Sandstead, south London, was remanded in custody with two other men pending trial on April 14.

Hewitt banned

James Hewitt, 38, was banned from driving for a year and fined £450 with £140 costs for drink-driving. The former cavalry officer, who denied the charge, was found to have 97mg of alcohol per 100ml of blood. The legal limit is 80 mg.

Attackers jailed

Two German men have been jailed for an attack on three black Britons last June that left Noel Martin, 36, from Birmingham, paralysed from the neck down. A court in Potsdam sentenced the men to eight and five years.

Dustcart ditched

The road collapsed under a 26-tonne dustcart reversing during morning rounds at Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, pitching it into a 12ft hole and fracturing a gas main. Houses had to be evacuated. The area is prone to subsidence.

Token offence

The Isle of Wight council, which introduced eco-style tokens as a charity fundraising effort, admitted breaching coinage law. The council and Pobjoy Mini were given an absolute discharge by a magistrate at Newport.

All-star B & B

A former astronomy lecturer has opened a star-gazing guesthouse in East Barham, Norfolk, with glass panels and a telescope in every bedroom. Simon Baty will also offer talks and a computer link with Nasa.

City suspends grant officials

BY PAUL WILKINSON

TWO senior council officers in Sheffield have been suspended after an investigation into the way millions of pounds were distributed to ethnic minority groups.

An independent inquiry found "shortcomings" in the allocation two years ago of grants by the city's Department of Employment and Economic Development. A source at the council said the shortcomings involved incompetence rather than fraud.

At the time the department had a budget of about £5.5

million to distribute among projects to boost businesses started by Asian and Afro-Caribbean groups in the city.

The inquiry was set up in May last year after an internal investigation in December 1994 found evidence of mistakes in allocating money. The investigators produced a report that was never made public but is said to include suggestions that money was paid without applications actually being lodged or forms signed by the applicants.

It also claimed that money was sometimes paid direct to individuals with no check on

whether it reached the intended organisation. It also found that different council departments independently handed over cash to the same groups. In one case money was paid to 31 Yemeni groups to cover different courses that appeared to be held simultaneously with the same tutor.

Terry Hall and Laura Moynahan, the two officials suspended, are senior managers in the Department of Employment and Economic Development. Their conduct will be investigated and a decision made on possible disciplinary proceedings.

Television in Gaelic is a £31m turn-off

BY AUDREY MAGEE
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRELAND'S first Gaelic-language television station has flopped, according to initial viewing figures. Fewer than 13,000 people are watching programmes transmitted by the one-month-old *Teilifís na Gaeilge*. Marketing men have awarded it a "zero" rating.

The highest audience was launch night on October 31 when more than 300,000 people watched the actor Gabriel Byrne speaking Irish. The Hollywood star wrote and acted in an hour-long drama about Ireland in the 1960s.

Viewers have since slumped at the station, which cost £31 million to set up, with only children's programmes remaining popular.

The station, known as *TnaG*, insists the figures drawn up by Nielsen Market Research in Dublin are unreliable. Padraig O'Ciardha, spokesman for *TnaG*, said the high quality of the programming was receiving much praise from the public. "We are upset by them because we believe we are reaching a much larger audience than these figures would lead us to believe," Mr O'Ciardha said.

The Nielsen survey examines the viewing habits of 600 people around the Republic but Mr O'Ciardha said there was no way of knowing whether they had the proper facilities to receive *TnaG*'s signal. Only half the population receive it automatically — as cable subscribers.

The other half are equipped with old-style UHF aerials and receive only the Irish channels. They need an aerial extension to receive *TnaG*. But few have bothered because only 4 per cent of the population is native Irish-speaking.

The poor ratings will provide further ammunition for the many critics who predicted the station would be a waste of taxpayers' money.

The Welsh channel *S4C* has, by contrast, been a big success. After 14 years on air its most popular Welsh-speaking programmes attract audiences of up to 300,000.

British broadcasters seek crackdown on Irish who tune in free

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC and ITV are calling on the Irish Government to crack down on hundreds of unlicensed television groups that pirate their signals for nothing. British broadcasters are losing millions of pounds a year in potential royalties as the groups, said they want to reach rural areas of Ireland.

The typical system works simply and openly. In Co Donegal, masts have been erected along the border with Northern Ireland by "deflector" groups that feed signals to 51 smaller aerials in remote areas. Households pay a voluntary fee of £30 a year for the signal, which they pick up on conventional aerials.

Television fans in Co Cork use a different route, as they are more than 200 miles from the South Coast Community Broadcasting Service erected a mast 2,000ft up the Comeragh Mountains in Co Waterford, which picks up British signals from Wales. This is beamed to 23 aerials in Co Cork.

Radio Telefís Éireann, Ireland's state broadcaster, which provides a diet of dreary and stilted programmes across three channels, can

only watch with envy as viewers tune in across the Irish Sea. But the pirating of the British signal has proved too much for the BBC, ITV and Channel Four. Stephen Edwards, a London solicitor who collects royalties for the broadcasters, said they wanted the Irish Government to license the groups or to close them down.

"The Irish Government has, from time to time, said it would do something about it," he said. "But it hasn't. This is illegal."

His anger is shared by Irish cable companies that have government licences to provide British television to rural areas. Cable Management Ireland Ltd, which should have been beaming the signals to Co Donegal since 1993, is still battling with local television groups. It charges £105 a year.

Last week an incendiary device was found near the cable company's TV mast and equipment worth £100,000 was destroyed recently. The Donegal Community Television Support Group strenuously denies involvement.

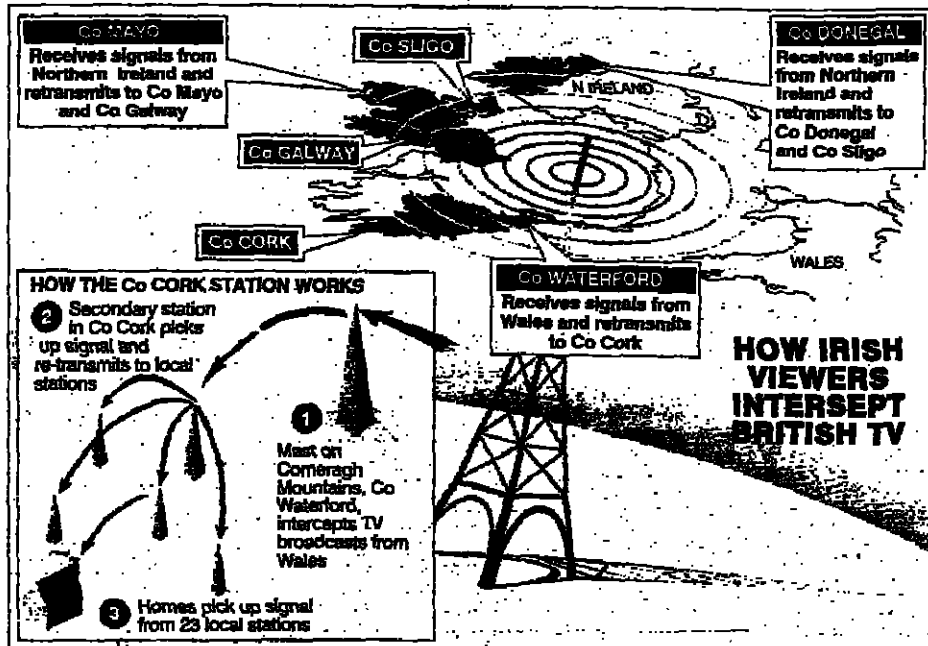
Ray Doyle, Cable Management's chief executive, said:

"The deflector groups portray themselves as a modern-day Robin Hood robbing the rich to help the poor. But they are just helping themselves by stealing the service. I find it difficult to understand how people can get away with this. Investors from abroad are astonished."

Politicians in the Republic tackle the "deflector" groups at their peril. In the last general election, the group in Co Cork put up a candidate who polled more than 2,000 votes, unsettling one of the candidates from the governing Fianna Fáil.

However, Eric Curtis, the secretary of the Irish National Community Television Association, insisted that the groups were doing nothing illegal and would like to be licensed. They are awaiting a court case that will rule whether the Government was wrong not to consider licensing them.

The Irish Government has appointed consultants from the European Broadcasting Union to examine the issue. Mr Curtis said: "We are not commercial and are strictly run by local communities. We developed the market. Cable companies want to cash in."



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Cultural trust plan based on lottery aid

By James Landale

LABOUR plans to set up a "National Trust" to protect and promote Britain's intellectual and cultural heritage with money from the National Lottery.

The scheme, announced yesterday, would give financial help to talented young people working in the arts, sports, sciences, and technologies. After start-up funds from the lottery for up to five years, it would become a self-financing charity.

Money would also come from royalty donations and the ceding of intellectual copyright from established artists, sportsmen and scientists.

The idea is backed by the film producer Sir David Putnam, who said it was an exciting way to build on the creative ability of Britain's young people. "It should be for the 21st century what the National Trust has been for the 20th."

Labour would ban lawsuits over failed exams, says Blunkett

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

A LABOUR government would change the law to ensure that children who failed their examinations could not sue education authorities responsible for poorly performing schools, David Blunkett said yesterday.

The Shadow Education Secretary said it would be "disastrous" if fear of provoking legal action prevented inspectors from telling the truth about a school's standards.

Mr Blunkett made his comments as insurance companies representing education authorities said that they would fight claims for damages over bad examination results. Two 17-year-olds are claiming compensation for poor GCSE results at schools that have been heavily criticised by Ofsted, the schools inspection agency.

One of the teenagers left school two years ago without any GCSEs and the other got poorer grades than expected. Both are retaking their courses at sixth-form colleges

and are suing for loss of earnings and seeking compensation for the cost of tuition.

Mr Blunkett spoke of the dangers of allowing similar claims to proceed. "I can't see how we can go into a situation where there is a threat hanging over legitimate inspection, where revealing that something is wrong is then used in terms of taking legal action and where money is then withdrawn from a school which needs it desperately."

"It would be disastrous if legal advice precluded telling the truth about a school and then taking positive action to improve standards rather than paying compensation."

Yesterday insurance experts said there was little chance of anyone securing big out-of-court settlements like the £30,000 obtained by a man who had claimed damages for being bullied at school. The two latest cases are being prepared by Jack Rabinowitz, the London solicitor who acted

for the bullying victim. In that case the insurer, Sun Alliance, decided that it would be cheaper to settle out of court. Because the plaintiff was legally aided, the company would have been unable to recover its costs even if it won.

Yesterday Zurich Municipal, which insures most education authorities, said reports that 70 or more former pupils were preparing to sue schools over poor results radically changed the financial calculation. The firm would need to fight and win a test case.

School governors backed Mr Blunkett. Pat Petch, chairman of the National Governors' Council, said: "Unless there is urgent clarification, there is likely to be an ever-lengthening queue of young litigants. Schools will be hit by the cost of escalating insurance premiums if insurance companies decide to settle rather than fight cases."

Libby Purves, page 16



Victoria Scott, right, at the protest outside Parliament yesterday

Disabled activists protest at new law

By Dominic Kennedy, Social Affairs Correspondent

DISABLED rights campaigners protested outside Parliament yesterday against new laws that they say are inadequate.

The Disability Discrimination Act, which became law yesterday, makes it an offence to discriminate against disabled people in the workplace or in the provision of services by shops, hairdressers, cinemas and pubs. The protest by 100 people was organised by Rights Now, which believes that Parliament was wrong to exclude firms with fewer than 20 employees.

Among the protesters was Victoria Scott, whose campaign for handicapped people's rights helped to bring down her father as Minister for the Disabled. In 1994 she called on Sir Nicholas Scott to resign after he talked out previous legislation on the disabled. Yesterday she pushed a fellow demonstrator in a wheelchair as campaigners chained themselves to two buses in Whitehall in an attempt to block the highway.

Alistair Burt, Minister for the Disabled, said: "There are some campaigners who are still fighting the battles of yesterday."

Clarke's refusal to shift on Europe is not just defiance

Kenneth Clarke does not seriously believe that a re-elected Conservative Government would take Britain into a single currency in the first wave, or at any time in the next Parliament. Indeed, he expressed doubts last week about whether enough countries would genuinely meet the convergence criteria so that any monetary union is credible and sustainable. However, his determination to keep open the option of participation is not just a quixotic gesture of defiance, though the Chancellor does relish taunting his sceptic critics.

His real concerns are twofold. First, as he said last week and repeated yesterday, it is in Britain's interests to have a stable monetary union, whether we are in or out, because the likely participants are among our biggest export markets. So Britain should remain involved in the negotiations, and in particular over which countries qualify for membership.

Second, and more important, Mr Clarke believes that a government decision ruling out membership in the next Parliament would send a negative signal about Britain's broader relations with the European Union, and would be a big victory for the sceptics. It would be seen as a move towards the renegation of Britain's membership, which a growing group of Tory sceptics want.

Mr Clarke, and Michael Heseltine, fear the operation of a ratchet after a series of concessions to the sceptics in recent years. After being reluctantly persuaded last spring to agree to a referendum on a single currency, Mr Clarke is now determined to draw a line. Most of the Cabinet believe that he is not bluffing, and might resign if the "wait-and-see" policy is abandoned.

However, there is an ambiguity in the Government's position. Mr Clarke has stuck to the letter of the official statement after the Cabinet decision in April on the referendum that "we will be keeping our option open at the next general election". However, Downing Street was

yesterday saying "we will take decisions when there are decisions there to be taken". That could be a crucial let-out since it leaves open the possibility that, if the Government concludes in, say, February or March, that the position is clear over the form of monetary union, it could then decide it would not be right for Britain to enter in the first wave. And, hey presto, a gap would open up with Labour, which could be depicted as being willing to "sell out the pound", even though Robin Cook has emphasised Labour's doubts. That, at any rate, is the hope of the sceptics and they believe that John Major is on their side. Not surprisingly, Mr Clarke has been saying that final decisions on the shape of monetary union may not be taken until the European council after the general election.

For at least two years Mr Major has told people that he doubts whether any early monetary union will work, and, anyway, does not believe that Britain would join. But he has been constrained by the attitudes of Mr Heseltine and especially Mr Clarke, while, along with Malcolm Rifkind and Mr Clarke, he is worried about undermining Britain's influence in the negotiations.

Little is likely to happen in the short term. The sceptic press is trying to build up pressure on the Cabinet with stories where the wish is father to the news and wholly unscientific surveys of readers' views. But even sceptic Cabinet ministers do not want to force the issue now in view of Mr Clarke's refusal to shift. More likely is an attempt to reopen the question on the eve of the election or in a personal expression of view from Mr Major (the Huntingdon declaration option). Either would risk splitting the Cabinet. For the next five months, at any rate, Mr Clarke remains the most powerful man in the Government.

PETER RIDDELL

Ministers defeated in Police Bill vote

THE Government suffered its first defeat of this parliamentary session last night over plans to give employers access to job seekers' criminal records. (James Landale writes.)

Peers backed a move to exempt voluntary workers from having to pay for new criminal conviction certificates. Under the new Police Bill, certain employers will be able to request the certificates from a new Criminal Records Agency before they take on staff, especially those who would be working with children.

Voluntary groups feared that they would have to bear the cost to prevent potential workers being dissuaded from applying. The certificates will cost between £5 and £10. The amendment to the Bill, put forward by the former

Commons Speaker Lord Weatherill, secured a two-vote majority. A spokesman for Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said that ministers would consider the implications of the vote before deciding whether to seek to reverse it in the Commons.

Baroness Hilton of Eggardon, for Labour, said: "This will be a great relief to many organisations which use volunteers, many of whom are young or unemployed and would not have been able to afford the fees."

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons health questions to the Prime Minister, Budget debate, final day; backbench debate on transport bills; in the Lords Scotland planning the second reading; National Health Service (Primary Care Bill, second reading; debate on East to West 500, on racial and religious discrimination in revised European Treaty.

A PICTURE OF

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MY FAMILY STRUGGLING

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NORWICH UNION

'Dishonourable' Russian general faces dismissal

FROM RICHARD BEESTON
IN MOSCOW

A FURIOUS battle broke out in the Russian military's top ranks yesterday after General Igor Rodionov, the Defence Minister, accused one of his most senior officers of "dishonourable conduct" and demanded his sacking.

In a move which could signal a fresh purge of Russian top brass, General Vladimir Semyonov, the commander of Russia's land forces, was accused of "actions discrediting the honour and dignity of a serviceman" and incompatible with his duty.

His duties have been taken over by his deputy, General Anatoli Golovnyov. Since June President Yeltsin has sacked or removed more than 15 top generals from the demoralised armed forces, amid warnings that the army was on the verge of mutiny.

General Semyonov, 56, a former Soviet deputy Defence Minister, has held his position since 1991 and was in charge of ground forces during the assault on Chechnya two years ago, which began one of the most humiliating chapters in Russian military history.

However, the wording of a presidential decree, which has been prepared but not yet signed by the Russian leader, suggested that it was the general's activities out of uniform, rather than his profes-



Semyonov: 'questions over family business'

sional conduct, that were being questioned.

The military authorities are under strong pressure to clean up widespread corruption in top ranks of the army, and 100 senior officers are under investigation for abusing their positions. General Semyonov denied any wrongdoing yesterday. "This is completely unexpected," he said. "I have not received any concrete and convincing accusations from the Defence Minister and the reasons for my dismissal are still unclear to me."

Sources in the Ministry of Defence said that the private business interests of members of the general's family had come to the attention of the authorities and may have presented the Kremlin with a pretext to get rid of him. Since

the appointment of General Rodionov in July, the white-haired commander has set about removing an entire tier of the top command and replacing the generals with his own appointments.

The Defence Minister wants his men in place when he begins an ambitious programme of reforming the Russian military from the present chaotic, demoralised, conscript force, into a smaller, better-trained and better-equipped professional army.

But the abrupt personnel changes at the top, and the ensuing political row, have done little to calm the ugly mood within the ranks. Many soldiers go for months without pay because of government incompetence or corruption. Middle-ranking officers in particular have grown increasingly disgruntled.

Although by tradition the Russian armed forces have rarely become directly involved in politics, the political establishment is now littered with former army officers, most prominent among them General Aleksandr Lebed, the nationalist who remains highly popular among the 15 million men in uniform.

Yesterday's row was particularly galling for many military men as they marked the 100th anniversary of Field Marshal Georgi Zhukov, who commanded Soviet forces in the Second World War.



Dressed as Father Christmas, Germany's Finance Minister Theo Waigel joins a Munich party to raise funds for youngsters under the slogan "Europe helps children"

Pope and Carey to reopen dialogue

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, today flies to Rome in a bid to give new impetus to the flagging Anglican dialogue on closer ties with the Roman Catholic Church in the run-up to the millennium.

The talks follow last week's "compact" between the Anglican and Lutheran Churches, and the Pope's overtures last weekend to the Orthodox churches. The Pope said he hoped the millennium would "guide Christians to a full and visible unity".

But a spokesman for the Vatican Council for Christian Unity said that although Anglicans and Catholics had a "shared moral vision", the Anglican ordination of women was "casting an increasingly long shadow" over relations. The fact that Dr Carey himself ordained women had "particular significance".

In an unusual snub, Vatican officials have turned down invitations to attend a service of prayer to be conducted in Rome this evening by Dr Carey. Officials said the service was being held at an Episcopal Church where a woman priest who converted from Catholicism to Anglicanism was recently ordained.

Dr Carey is to hold two meetings with the Pope during his three-day visit to Rome. Canon Richard Marsh, the Archbishop's Secretary for Ecumenical Affairs, said that issues such as women priests and papal infallibility would be dealt with "within the context of dialogue".

Dr Carey and the Pope will worship together on Thursday at the church from which St Augustine, the first Archbishop of Canterbury, was dispatched to Britain with 40 monks by Pope Gregory I exactly 1,400 years ago.

□ Vatican City: Cardinal Jerome Hamer, 80, a prelate chosen by the Pope to enforce discipline among religious orders, died yesterday. (AP)

Letters, page 17

Two jailed for attack on Briton

Bonn: Two German skin-heads who crippled Noel Martin, 38, a black British construction worker, in a racist attack last summer were given eight- and five-year jail sentences. (Roger Boyes writes). Anti-foreigner sentiment in eastern Germany has claimed British, Italian, French and Vietnamese victims.

Mr Martin was paralysed from the neck down when the two youths threw a 44lb stone through the back window of his car, which then hit a tree.

Leader defeated

Kishinev: Petru Lucinschi, Moldova's top Communist official in Soviet times and the Speaker in parliament, was declared victorious over President Snegur in a run-off election. (AP)

Informers jailed

Ankara: Two army sergeants were jailed for giving military information and equipment to Kurdish guerrillas, the Anatolian news agency said. Four former Turkish MPs face similar charges. (AP)

Reindeer starve

Moscow: Some 3,000 reindeer have starved to death in the Siberian Arctic and a further 150,000 — up to half the herd — may perish because their pastures are icebound, the news agency Tass said. (AFP)

Mir space walk

Moscow: Two Russian cosmonauts left the orbital station Mir to install more solar panels in an effort to stop occasional power failures. John Blaha, a US astronaut, remained inside. (AP)

Suicide bid

Bochum, Germany: A German reptile-fancier was very ill after trying to commit suicide by allowing a venomous South African snake to bite him, police said. The snake was being cared for. (AFP)



Havel: hard smoking and drinking habits as a dissident have taken their toll

Surgeons remove tumour from Havel's lung

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

PRESIDENT HAVEL of the Czech Republic was recovering last night from an operation to remove half of his right lung.

The chain-smoking former dissident had a final pre-operation cigarette with Jan Stary, the Health Minister, before doctors removed a small malignant tumour from the President. Pavel

Pafko, one of the surgeons, suggested that Mr Havel, 60, could be back at home in ten days. This indicated that the doctors had not found any sign of spreading cancer. The President is expected to resume his duties after about six weeks.

"Doctors believe that the illness has been caught in an early stage," Ladislav Spacek, the presidential spokesman, said.

Mr Havel is one of the few

senior politicians left in central and eastern Europe who can display a long history of anti-Communist activity. Former communist still dominate in countries like Hungary and Poland — where Lech Walesa, the former President, was yesterday told that he might be prosecuted for removing secret documents while head of state.

A basic qualification for dissidents in the 1970s and 1980s was

the capacity to smoke and drink hard while sustaining an argument for many hours. These habits, made worse by enforced manual work and stints in damp prisons, has undermined the health of many of the intellectuals who toppled communism.

Mr Havel has few political powers as President but he retains strong moral authority and an 80 per cent approval rating in a recent opinion poll.

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Boutros Ghali: vetoed by the Americans

African states end support for UN leader

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AFRICAN nations have dropped their unanimous support for Boutros Ghali's bid for a second term as United Nations Secretary-General, throwing the race open to African candidates.

President Paul Biya of Cameroon, the current head of the Organisation of African Unity, has written to other African leaders asking them to nominate Africans. Mr Biya's letter breaks the stalemate that has existed since the United States implemented its veto in the UN Security Council last month to stop Dr Boutros Ghali serving another five-year term.

As precedent dictates that each continent should get two terms as UN chief, the 15-nation Security Council has agreed, at least initially, to consider only Africans for the post.

Diplomats now expect at least five African candidates to come forward: Kofi Annan, the Ghanaian head of UN peacekeeping; Salim Salim, the Tanzanian who runs the OAU; Hamid Algabid of Niger, who is head of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference; Amara Essy, the Foreign Minister of Ivory Coast; and his Senegalese counterpart, Moustapha Niasse.

Despite pressure for the UN to name its first female head, no African woman appears ready to run.

Graca Machel, the widow of the former Mozambican President and the current partner of South Africa's President Mandela, is mentioned with increasing frequency but is said to be reluctant to seek the post.

A decision on the appointment is required by the end of the year. If no African emerges with sufficient support, the contest will be opened to non-Africans and the attention will focus on candidates from Asia.

Leading article, page 17

RAF finds little trace of 'refugees'

Britain calls off alert for relief mission to Zaire

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of British troops on short notice to leave for Zaire have been stood down after an RAF Canberra reconnaissance aircraft flying over the region found no evidence of the reported 500,000-700,000 "missing" refugees.

The Canberra team, taking high-resolution photographs from 15,000ft over a wide expanse of eastern Zaire, found only one large concentration of refugees, about 150,000 west of Lake Kivu, near the village of Kilambo.

However, the RAF team of photographic interpreters noted that the surrounding area was well-cultivated. "This is agricultural land - not jungle. It is not Ethiopia," one senior defence source said yesterday.

The aerial photographs have provided convincing proof for the Ministry of Defence that there is no longer an urgent need to send a multinational force to search for refugees, previously regarded as "unaccounted for".

Six hundred Marines with 45 Commando Royal Marines will remain on 72-hour notice to leave for Zaire. But this is the so-called "Spearhead Battalion" which is always on short notice to leave for trouble spots.

The rest of the units selected for possible deployment to Zaire, including the 1st Battalion Parachute Regiment, logistics elements and the headquarters of 5 Airborne Brigade which would have run the British presence in Zaire, have had their notice to leave increased from 72 hours to five days.

Britain has also made it clear it does not support the idea of air drops of humanitarian aid over eastern Zaire. Canada, the main advocate of this "last resort" proposal, is also understood to be "going off the idea".

The RAF Canberra PR9, which takes 700 photographs per sortie, has been flying over eastern Zaire for more than a

week, trying to find the missing refugees. American F3 Orion aircraft and reconnaissance satellites have also been sweeping over the area.

A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) team managed to drive across the mountains and reach one of the camps spotted by the Canberra but it was already empty and the refugees had moved on.

The Canberra will remain in the area, based at Entebbe in Uganda, to carry out more flights to try to trace the movement of the 150,000 refugees. Searches have also continued further south to Lake Tanganyika and as far west as Shabunda.

However, one defence source said: "Judging by what the Canberra team discovered, I don't think it's likely that we'll be deploying a lot of troops to the area."

Apart from the large concentration of 150,000 refugees at Kilambo, the RAF team also came across much smaller pockets of refugees, increasing total numbers to about 200,000.

However, the defence sources said it was difficult when analysing the pictures to distinguish between locals and refugees when the photographs showed clusters of people in "marker" areas.

The Canberra team of about 40, backed up by three Hercules aircraft, has faced extraordinary difficulties in carrying out its task. Apart from the onset of the rainy season, the Canberra's take-offs from Entebbe have been limited by a migration of thousands of bats in the area, and when they reached eastern Zaire, the RAF crew had to fly through dust caused by the eruption of the Nyamulagira volcano.

There has also been concern over anti-aircraft fire. The American F3s came under fire last week which persuaded the Canberra team to remain flying at 15,000ft and not to drop to 10,000ft.



Andy Malthouse, a senior aircraftman, studies RAF reconnaissance pictures such as that, right, taken over eastern Zaire, showing the movement of refugees caught up in the conflict afflicting Central Africa

Tutsi rebels seize key town on Congo

BY SAM KILEY AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

TUTSI rebels in eastern Zaire, backed by Rwanda, claimed yesterday to have swept into Kisangani, a key town controlling the Congo River and Zaire's most important communications link.

John Kabunga, a commander in the rebel alliance, said rebel soldiers had entered the city, founded a hundred years ago by the British explorer Henry Morton Stanley. He said they had faced stiff resistance from

extremist Rwandan Hutu militiamen fighting alongside Zaire's ragtag army for several weeks.

"Our forces are now in control of parts of Kisangani. We went there by bypassing the town of Walekale, which is still giving us problems," Mr Kabunga said.

The fall of the whole of Kisangani looked imminent last night. Its capture would be the latest in a string of victories for the rebels who already control North and South Kivu provinces. They have vowed to march on to

Kinshasa, the Zairean capital, to depose the regime of ailing President Mobutu who is convalescing in the south of France after treatment for prostate cancer.

If the rebels manage to hold Kisangani, formerly known as Stanleyville, they will be able to lay siege to Kinshasa. The capital relies for much of its food from the Kivu provinces and on the Congo for contact with the interior of the country.

Mr Kabunga said there was still fighting around Walekale in Masisi, a rich agricultural

area 150 miles southeast of Kisangani, but that this area had been bypassed by his commandos, many of whom were trained in Rwanda and are dedicated to annihilating the *interahamwe* - the extremist Hutus responsible for the 1994 genocide in Rwanda.

The loss of Kisangani would not only be a major blow to Zaire's crumbling Government, but a significant embarrassment to the French Government which had been asked last week by President Mobutu to help recruit mercenaries to secure the city.

US tries to placate Okinawa with floating base plan

FROM ROBERT WHYMAN IN TOKYO

THE United States and Japan yesterday agreed to reduce America's military presence on Okinawa and to build a floating helicopter base, but ruled out expected cuts in the number of US servicemen on the island.

The agreement, reached at a meeting attended by William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, followed a year of negotiations aimed at assuaging Okinawans' anger over the rape

of a schoolgirl by US servicemen last year. The agreement was given a mixed reception. "The feelings of the Okinawan people have not been taken into account," said Tetsuya Higa, Mayor of Nago, a city near the proposed floating base.

More than 2,500 people demonstrated in Nago at the weekend. Seven members of the Nago city assembly sent a letter of protest to Major-General Wayne Rollings, the US military commander at Okinawa. The US military will return about

12,000 acres, or 21 per cent of the land it occupies, and close part or all of 11 military facilities. As agreed in April by President Clinton and Ryutaro Hashimoto, Japan's Prime Minister, Futenma air station, a Marine Corps heliport in a densely populated area, will be returned to Japan. The two sides agreed to replace it with a floating base to be built off Okinawa's east coast and paid for by Japan. The exact location was not divulged because of intense local opposition. The agreement is intended to

reduce aircraft noise and the visibility of the US presence on an island that is home to 75 per cent of all American facilities in Japan. But it does not address the biggest issue for most islanders - the 28,000 US troops, mainly Marines, who are to remain. The rape of the 12-year-old Okinawa girl provoked a storm that forced Tokyo and Washington to look for ways to reduce the burden on the island.

However, as Okinawans noted bitterly, the planned floating base

will be connected to land by a pier or causeway, and so do nothing to protect them from soldiers.

America's bases on Okinawa - with their proximity to China and North Korea - have for decades been a key to US military strategy in the Pacific. Japan spends more than \$5 billion (£3 billion) a year to support US troops in Japan, covering roughly 70 per cent of the total cost. Japanese officials say the troops are a stabilising factor in an otherwise volatile region.

'Dead' man at his own funeral

Manila: Isidro Catarla turned up at his own wake at the weekend, starting his wife, parents and mourners, who fled. Confusion arose when the family mistakenly claimed the corpse of a drowned man at a funeral parlour believing it to be Catarla. Now police say that neighbours are demanding that his family return the money they donated for his funeral. (Reuters)

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Tiananmen commander to call on Clinton

FROM JONATHAN MURSKY IN HONG KONG

CHINA'S Minister of National Defence, General Chi Haotian, starts an official visit to the United States tomorrow. Few Americans know, and are not being told, that he commanded the army during the Tiananmen Square killings in June 1989.

The American official biography of General Chi, compiled by intelligence sources and distributed by the Defence Department for public information, traces his life from his birth in 1929 to a peasant family, through his promotions during the Cultural Revolution and appointment as Chief of the General Staff from 1987-1993, to his present post in 1993.

But the handbook neglects his operational control on the night of June 3-4, 1989. According to an American army biographical handbook, General Chi, as Chief of Staff, commanded well over 300,000 troops from 14 army groups and two airborne brigades during the operation in which many hundreds of people in and around Tiananmen Square were killed and many more wounded. These facts are also omitted from his official Chinese biography.

Tiananmen is a sensitive subject with many Americans and his hosts are eager to minimise General Chi's role. During his visit he will meet President Clinton and other top officials. Two previous planned visits, in 1995 and the spring of this year, were cancelled because of Peking's manoeuvres off Taiwan.

Beirut gambles on being playground of the Middle East as casino reopens

FROM MICHAEL THYDODULOU IN BEIRUT

SIX years after the militiamen, kidnapers and car bombers went into retirement, the Middle East's most famous casino and glitziest symbol of Lebanon's heyday reopens tonight. It has taken a \$30 million facelift to wipe away the damage inflicted by 15 years of civil war.

Despite ongoing battles in southern Lebanon and daily exchanges of bellicose rhetoric between Syria and Israel, officials say serious gamblers are queuing up to try their luck at the resurrected Casino du Liban, where celebrities such as Frank Sinatra and Charles Aznavour entertained high-rolling Arab oil sheikhs and European jet-setters.

"We've seen huge interest from the Gulf Arabs," Nicholas Crabtree, the casino's vice-president, said. "It's just a matter of time before the cruise ships turn up here like they did in late shipping magnate Aristotel Onassis's day when we had stars like Brigitte Bardot and Sophia Loren."

Observers insist that paralysis in the Middle East peace talks will not harm business at the casino, a rarity in the Arab world where Islamic law forbids gambling.

Gambling breaks all social, political and ethnic barriers as everyone unites to beat the house," Mr Crabtree said. He is a Londoner and one of about 20 British on the gaming staff of 54 directed by London Club International which manages the gambling. "During the Gulf War, I was running a casino in Mayfair where we had people from all the major parties to the con-



In the Sixties, the Casino du Liban rivalled Monte Carlo and outshone Las Vegas

flict gambling happily alongside each other."

The history of the Casino du Liban, which first opened in 1958, tells a similar tale. When civil war erupted in Lebanon in 1975, Muslims and Christians who battled by day crossed the sectarian divide to gamble. Only in 1989 did the roulette wheels grind to a halt - a year before the war ended, when militiamen shelled the complex.

It has taken 18 months to renovate the shrapnel-pocked building. Now there are 60 gaming tables offering roulette, blackjack and stud poker. Professional gamblers, who can afford to lose \$20,000 (\$12,000) a night, will be invited to three private rooms where a minimum bet is \$150. Lebanese, however, need to declare they earn \$12,000 a year, which will bar the vast

majority of them from the gaming tables. But the 320 slot machines are open to all.

Mr Crabtree expects profits in the first year to reach \$18 million. These will increase next year when a 750-seat restaurant with facilities to stage international shows is completed.

In its glory days, when the casino rivalled Monte Carlo and outshone Las Vegas, Miss Europe was crowned here for five consecutive years. The last phase of the renovation project will include a 150-bed, five-star hotel.

The casino is being promoted as a symbol of Lebanon's phoenix-like revival. But many Lebanese are unconvinced that they will gain from such prestige projects. A third of the three million population live below the poverty line, according to a

United Nations study. Last week, while dozens of workers were putting the finishing touches for the casino's inauguration by President Hrawi, hundreds of Lebanese protested in the streets after trade unions called for a strike. The demonstrators were dispersed by riot police.

Leading article, page 17

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Clinton's drift to the Right seals fate of liberalism in America



Reno: the sole liberal voice from first term

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AS PRESIDENT CLINTON turns to the business of selecting his new Cabinet, postponed over Thanksgiving, those who have made a career out of liberal politics are wondering whether it is time to leave Washington. The word has gone out: there is little point in liberals applying for jobs in this Administration.

Warring bells sounded for them when Mr Clinton replaced Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, a liberal Californian, with Erskine Bowles, a conservative from North Carolina. Harold Ickes, a noted New York liberal and one of Mr Clinton's most trusted advisers as Deputy Chief of Staff, is leaving for home now that his

chances of a Cabinet role have vanished. Janet Reno, apparently secure as Attorney-General while inquiries into the Clinton finances continue, remains the sole liberal voice from the first term.

More generally, Democrats as well as Republicans are arguing that Clinton's re-election on a strikingly conservative platform, plus the election of a more right-wing Congress, confirms the country's long-predicted shift to the Right. Liberalism of the brand which flourished in the 1960s and 70s is dead.

There is much truth behind the liberals' lament. For years, conservatives have blamed liberal social attitudes for the nation's woes. Robert Bork, the Supreme Court candidate who was rejected after a bitter

contested nomination, in his book *Slouching towards Gomorrah*, accuses liberal attitudes of encouraging "a nation of culturally corrupt citizens who have abandoned ideas of religious faith, respect for law, hard work and family".

What is new is that these voices have been joined by others on the left of the spectrum. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the figurehead of Washington liberalism, attacks many "liberals" in his new book for holding that mental illness and single-parent families were not problems, simply choices of lifestyle.

Even more damaging for left-leaning politicians, the term "liberal" has become associated with unpopular economic policies: high taxes and defence cutbacks used to pay for big government social programmes. The growth of the middle class has made these policies electorally disastrous. The offspring of blue-collar immigrants who made up the bedrock of Democratic support have settled in the suburbs and are worried about job security and school fees. The result is that "liberal" has become a dirty word. Voters prefer to hear a message of hard work and individualism.

Mr Clinton was re-elected partly because he was alert to the rightward-shift in the political climate, denying fervently that he was a liberal in televised debates before the election. That is not a new incarnation. The images of him avoiding conscription, raising a marijuana

joint to his lips, and wearing a beard while at Oxford are deceptive. He has built his political career on a pragmatic courting of the Centre. He has now signed a Republican-backed welfare Bill which undercuts six decades of social welfare provision.

However, there is one prominent exception to the rejection of the 1970s liberal agenda by voters and the Clinton Administration: the race issue. The O.J. Simpson trials and the "Million Man March" of black men in Washington are a reminder of the deep divisions in American society. Many still look to Government and the courts to solve them — witness Texasco's offer of more than \$100 million (£60 million) to settle a charge of discrimination.

In his campaign, Mr Clinton preached loudly a message of inclusiveness: "If you believe in the Declaration of Independence, and you turn up for work and do your share, we don't need to know anything else about you — you're part of our America." This was very different from Republican candidate Bob Dole's refrain that hard-working middle-class people should not have to pay for immigrants and the unemployed.

Mr Clinton may be one of the few Democratic Presidents to consider the tag of "liberal" slanderous. But in his message that government is responsible — and capable — of promoting social harmony, he preserves one strand of the 1970s liberal agenda.

Germans confront role of Jews in Nazi war machine

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

VOLKER RÜHE, the German Defence Minister, yesterday opened an exhibition which tackles for the first time the Jewish contribution to the German and Prussian armies — a highly sensitive topic which is likely to fuel an already fierce debate about wartime anti-Semitism.

At the beginning of the exhibition, organised by the Military Historical Research Institute in Potsdam, there is a picture of a shopkeeper, Richard Stern. The date of the photograph is April 1, 1933 and the Jewish merchant is protesting against the boycott of Jewish shops in Cologne; on his chest he wears an Iron Cross, won during the First World War.

This image dominates not only the exhibition, but the

whole debate as to how Germany could so readily assimilate Jews — to such an extent that 100,000 fought for them in the First World War — and then in a few decades banish them from society and murder almost the whole community.

Adolf Hitler embodies this paradox. A new book by Dr Brigitte Hamann, *Hitler's Vienna*, shows convincingly that Hitler's hatred for Jews was not hatched during his early years and that it was rather a political device aimed at drumming up a mass movement.

Hitler, according to Dr Hamann's research, had Jewish friends, patrons and customers for his drawings, and admired Jewish actors and composers. There is at least

one proven case of him protecting a Jewish friend. His old family doctor, Eduard Bloch, was allowed to carry Aryan identity papers and when he eventually emigrated to the United States, was allowed to sell his house at a proper market price. Other beneficiaries included Maria Almas-Dietrich, twice married to Jewish men, who sold over 270 paintings to Hitler.

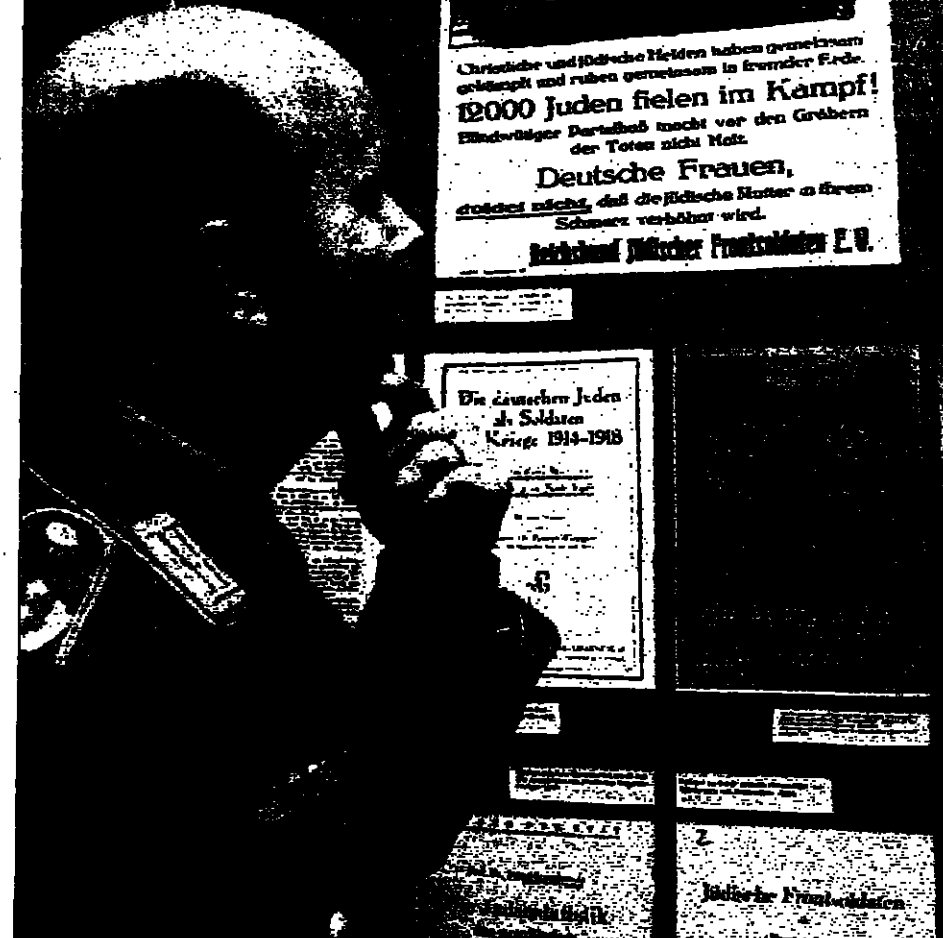
Whether Hitler protected top soldiers in the same way is unclear. There were protective networks in each of the German military institutions. The Luftwaffe — and not only Field Marshal Erhard Milch who was protected by Hermann Goering — contained a number of Germans of Jewish descent. In 1940 soldiers with two Jewish grandfathers were expelled from the army and the order was repeated in 1942, 1943 and 1944.

But those with only one Jewish grandparent were usually allowed to continue in the army, although generally barred from entering the officer corps. Some — including former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt — slipped through the net, despite their Jewish grandfathers. Herr Schmidt became a lieutenant in the artillery.

Few Germans in wartime were immune from investigation of their ancestry. Even Reinhard Heydrich, the tall, Nordic-looking head of the Reich Security Service, was frequently accused of having a Jewish father.

Again and again he brought legal suits against anyone who claimed that he had Jewish blood.

Hitler and Heinrich Himmler, overall head of the Nazi police machine, were aware of the doubts about Heydrich's ancestry but did nothing: he



Dr Hans Ehlert, an officer and historian, visits the Potsdam exhibition yesterday

was regarded as too useful and, until his assassination in Prague in 1942, was utterly ruthless towards Jews. Since the Gestapo was the supreme arbiter of Jewish ancestry, exceptions could always be found and biographies faked.

Two debates have been opened in Germany and both have begun to touch on the most sensitive of subjects. The first concerns Hitler: if doubt can be shed on his early anti-Semitism, can doubt also be

cast on his personal involvement in the Holocaust? The German historian Joachim Fest (who argues that Hitler was intimately involved in, and gave the direct order for, the elimination of the Jews) is feuding with Hans Mommsen, who claims that the Nazis drifted towards the Holocaust.

The second great debate which has now begun concerns the identity of Jews in Germany. Naval Captain Frank Noegler, the military

historian who researched the exhibition on German-Jewish soldiers, claims that German Jews regarded service in the Prussian army as a way towards gaining full civic equality and demanded the right to participate in national military service.

Most Jews who served in the wartime German army did not regard themselves as Jews, but as Germans; some may not have been aware of their Jewish ancestry.

Campaign donor sought change in US policy on Asia

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House kept secret until after President Clinton's re-election a letter from an Indonesian billionaire, at the centre of controversy over foreign donations to the Democratic Party, which urged him to alter American policy in the Far East.

In the letter, written in March 1993, months after the President first took office, Mochtar Riady, a Lippo Group executive, called on Mr Clinton to "normalise" relations with Vietnam and ignore human rights violations in China and Indonesia. The existence of the letter, revealed by *The Wall Street Journal* yesterday, undermined at a single stroke efforts by the White House to portray the relationship between the President and the influential Indonesian family as purely social.

It is also likely further to encourage Republicans who have promised to set up congressional hearings — over Democratic fundraising after the failure last week of Janet Reno, the Attorney General, to appoint an independent prosecutor to investigate the issue.

Don Nickles and John McCain, two of the most senior Republican senators, said they disagreed with Ms Reno's conclusion that there was no credible evidence of impropriety by the President, Vice-President Al Gore, or top Administration officials over fundraising.

"We will place more emphasis on congressional hearings which are not always the most non-partisan way of addressing these issues, unfortunately," Mr McCain said.

The senator also questioned Mr Clinton's links with Mr Riady's son James, another big Democratic contributor who discussed Asian trade policy during 20 private visits to the White House in the past four years. The Riadys, who first met the Clintons in Arkansas, emerged shortly before last month's election at the apex of a network of Asian contributors. At best, critics believe they bought political favours but some claim that policy changes have been bought.

The family secured an influential post at the Commerce Department for one of its trusted Lippo lieutenants, John Huang, who later became a senior fundraiser for the Democratic Party. Mr Huang, who was dismissed when Clinton officials saw potential political embarrassment, is at the heart of a House inquiry into Arkansas connections with Indonesia in the 1970s and 1980s.

"Indagate", which increasingly is beginning to appear as the Whitewater of Mr Clinton's second term, is likely to hinge on how much influence was bought by large donations. The Lippo Group conglomerate has been linked to more than \$1 million (£595,000) in questionable contributions. The Riadys are also thought to have campaigned for preferential trading in Asia, including China. But the letter from Mochtar Riady appeared last night to provide the first concrete evidence of hard lobbying.

Mr Riady thanked Mr Clinton for his private meeting during the inauguration and then focused on policy. He urged Mr Clinton to increase trade delegations to Asia and to appoint former businessmen as ambassadors to the region.

He also asked the President to remain engaged with China and that Indonesia be given observer status at a summit of the Group of Seven industrial nations in Tokyo.

In calling for normalisation with Vietnam, a policy Mr Clinton adopted in 1995, Mr Riady told the President that two of his company managers were in Vietnam scouting for investment opportunities.

Student unearths service records

BY RUSSELL JENKINS

AN American studying history at Cambridge University has unearthed documentary evidence about German Jews who served in Hitler's army.

Bryan Rigg, 25, has uncovered papers suggesting that thousands of soldiers with one Jewish parent or grandparent fought for the Nazis.

Many of Hitler's highest ranking officers were termed under the Nuremberg Laws as *Mischlinge* — those of mixed race. The German Army personnel office in January 1944 knew of 77 "high-ranking officers of mixed Jewish race or married to a Jew" serving in the Wehrmacht.

Hitler knew of the Jewish origin of many officers —

some of them highly decorated — because he signed documents declaring them to be of "German blood". Their futures would be looked at again after the war.

Mr Rigg, a Texan graduate of Yale University, has tracked down through their individual records hundreds of soldiers with some Jewish parentage.

However, some historians dismissed the findings and claimed they presented nothing new. Dr Anthony Glees, of Brunel University, said: "Serious historians have known really ever since the Nuremberg laws were promulgated that there were different categories of 'bastards' or 'mongrels', as the Nazis called them, who were treated differently."

US villagers reap lottery harvest

BY QUENTIN LETTS

A DUSTBALL Texan cotton village which until last week was "dyin' on its feet" has been transformed by a lottery win into Lottsville, USA.

Forty-three of the 616 citizens of Roby, a township 120 miles west of Fort Worth, learnt that they will share \$50 million (£29 million) after their numbers came up in a pooled lottery ticket. Roby has gone from being a no-chance roadside station where even the tumbleweeds would not linger to the place with the most millionaires per capita in the entire United States.

Their *Whisky Galore*-style transformation has created a national sensation. For the first time in two years, some of Roby's hard-pressed townsfolk have been able to straighten their stonions and dine out. The local First National Bank of Sweetwater has become a scrum of flush-faced investors.

The win could not have been better timed for the many farmers who at the end of November paid \$10 apiece to join a one-off lottery cooperative. This year's weather has been the unkindest for more than 30 years, and many locals feared bankruptcy.

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Security blueprint seeks accord on fixed troop levels across Europe

BY MICHAEL BINYON

MORE than 50 European nations agreed yesterday to a keynote disarmament agreement to take into account the collapse of communism and the end of East-West confrontation.

At the same time, they were warned by Russia of the dangers of Nato going ahead with its proposed expansion. And they voiced almost universal criticism of Belarus, warning Aleksandr Lukashenko, its autocratic President, that he was leading his country into dictatorship.

John Major joined leaders of 54 countries at a summit in Lisbon of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe in drawing up a security blueprint for the next century. One of their main proposals is that the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, a keynote arms control agreement signed in the dying days of the Soviet Union, should be changed to take into account the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact. In future, the summit agreed, there would not be



Lukashenko: accused of becoming a dictator

block-to-block limits on troop levels, but new national limits for each country fixed within new geographic zones. Detailed talks will begin next month and will probably last 18 months.

Many countries at the summit, including Britain, expressed concern at the rising tension in Serbia. Carl Bildt, the Bosnia peace co-ordinator, yesterday gave a strong warning to President Milosevic of Serbia to drop a threat to crack down on the huge street protests in Belgrade. He said that the political crisis there could damage efforts to bring stability to all of former Yugoslavia. The Foreign Office criticised the annulment of the local election results, and said it was "disturbed" by the Serbian Interior Minister's statement that the Belgrade police had been "more tolerant than required".

Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, told the summit that Nato would create new fault lines in Europe if it went ahead with the admission of new Eastern European members. Western leaders said his tough language was expected, and America and Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General, insisted the alliance posed no threat to anyone.

Both Mr Major and Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, warned Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, that Israel should redouble its efforts to reach agreement on its withdrawing troops from Hebron. Mr Netanyahu is attending the summit together with other Mediterranean leaders, as well as government heads from South Korea and Japan which have insisted on being present at the summit.

Tyson scores knockout £45m in earnings

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MIKE TYSON, the boxer who lost his heavyweight title to Evander Holyfield last month, was the highest-earning sportsman in the world last year.

Tyson's earnings for the past 12 months, including prize money and endorsement deals, were estimated at \$75 million (£45 million). This put him comfortably ahead of the number two money winner, basketball's Michael Jordan, who earned \$52.6 million. Third was the only European in the top 30 sports millionaires, the German racing driver Michael Schumacher, with \$33 million.

The top British sportsman on the list was Damon Hill, the world champion Formula One racing driver, in thirty-fourth place with \$8.2 million. The

estimates, produced by the New York-based financial magazine *Forbes*, showed a preponderance of athletes from the big three American sports — basketball, baseball and American football — and from boxing.

The new heavyweight champion, Holyfield, ranked number six in the *Forbes* list, earning \$15.5 million. Holyfield, a devout churchgoer, gives heavily to charity. Both he and Tyson can look forward to even bigger pay days if promoters can organise a rematch.

Sports stars' earnings have rocketed on account of increased competition between television companies to cover sporting events. A boy who grows up in America today with an ability to run fast, jump high or punch hard can nourish dreams of becoming within a few years one of the world's richest men. Sports stars have

learned to groom their public appearances like rock stars. The publicity-hungry Dennis Rodman, a basketball player with the Chicago Bulls, dyes his hair outrageous colours, argues with umpires and dates beautiful women. His reward: a ninth placing with earnings of \$12.9 million.

The veteran golfer Arnold Palmer came eighth in the *Forbes* list, earning \$15.1 million — only \$100,000 of it in prize money. The rest came from his adroit sinking of sponsorship deals. In the same sport, the newcomer Tiger Woods earned an astonishing \$8.8 million, although he cannot yet be hailed as a true master of his sport. He owed his earning capacity to an engaging manner and the fact that he is one of the few black golfers on the professional circuit. No women appeared on the top 30 list.

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FORTE Heritage

Don't marry an MP - and don't wear trews

Mention secretaries in the House of Commons and most people immediately conjure up images of nubile young girls being seduced by powerful MPs among the stained glass windows and green leather corridors of the Palace.

But anyone who assumes that the House of Commons is nothing more than a dating agency hasn't met Eileen Wright, who last week celebrated her 50th anniversary as a House of Commons secretary.

Since entering the House in 1946 she has watched Sir Winston Churchill win back his majority and worked through the Suez crisis and the Profumo scandal. She adored Margaret Thatcher, will probably outlast John Major - and Tony Blair was not even born when she started her job.

As the longest-serving female aide in the Palace, Mrs Wright - 66 and steadfastly single since her divorce 30 years ago - knows more about MPs' peccadilloes than their wives.

She has worked in the Whips' Office and Downing Street put together. Broaching the subject of secretaries with her over a cup of tea in the Westminster Hall cafeteria is no easy feat. Everyone wants a word of advice from her and it took at least 15 minutes to get to our table. As she sat ramrod straight on her chair, her attention turned first to my shorthand (which obviously wasn't up to scratch), and then to my "trews" as she exalted the merits of £1 blouses and skirts from Oxford.

Finally we got onto sex, or rather, the lack of it. Most secretaries are highly professional and more concerned with current affairs than love affairs, said Mrs Wright. Between them they deal with more than 47,000 letters every day. They cure hangovers, book restaurants, conduct guided tours, act as agony aunts to constituents and understand the adrenalin and addiction of the place. One even accompanies her MP on midday jogs. But they don't have to

Eileen Wright on surviving 50 years in the House. Interview by Alice Thomson

wash their man's shirts or brush the crumbs off the sheets.

Mrs Wright has dedicated her life to looking after her charges (usually two at a time) and adores it. She did marry, briefly, in Coronation Year but it was a disaster. "I am delighted that I haven't got children. I am sure I look so young because I am not a wife. I never exercise. I have the occasional drink but never smoke and I can choose what I spend my salary on. At the moment it is redecorating my bedroom."

The doyenne of secretaries



Eileen Wright: 50 years in the House

has lived in the same street in north London with her mother since she was a child, even throughout her marriage. She has never been tempted to take an MP home to bed. "That sort of thing goes on a little, but not nearly as much as you think. As a regular churchgoer, I have never given them any encouragement. I always made sure I look business-like and never wear trews or short skirts," she says.

She was forced to go to work at 16 when her father died, and was taken on as office junior by a firm of parliamentary agents. MPs would come for dictation and filing. "In those days their salary was £1,000 a year and they had to pay for

their typewriters, two homes, postage stamps for the constituency and their secretaries out of their own pockets.

"They were a race apart in their black jackets, waxed moustaches and striped trousers. A lot had just come back from the war. You never assumed they weren't honest and upright although some weren't exactly sober and there were a few bad eggs. I am afraid to say that as the pay has gone up, the respect for MPs has gone down."

It is by chance, she says, that she has almost exclusively worked for Tories. One of her first was Sir William Teeling, MP for Brighton. "He was a terrible bully. When you are 18 you don't say, 'stop being such a silly bugger' but I finally cracked and said I would no longer work for him after the summer recess. The bizarre thing was it worked."

He loved being bossed around and we were best friends until his dying day. She has since dismissed one or two other charges, saying she would rather starve in the street than work for a charmless man.

The only woman she has ever worked for is Margaret Thatcher, as a stand-in when she was Opposition Leader. "She was wonderful and very considerate. But generally I don't think women make very good MPs. They find it hard to make their mark," she says.

Her current protégé is Patrick McLoughlin, MP for Derbyshire West. But she also looks after Matthew Parris, the *Times* columnist, who never managed to wear himself off her after he resigned as an MP.

Last week she held a vast party in the Churchill rooms to celebrate her 50 years at Westminster. Everyone, from the postroom workers to the Speaker, Betty Boothroyd, turned up, a fitting tribute to the indispensable Mrs Wright, who nevertheless was at pains to point out: "This isn't a retirement party, you know."



Julie Sowter is the second recipient of the Rees-Mogg Training Scholarship, which offers single parents the chance to train as childcare assistants

Springing the trap

A pioneering scheme offers single parents the chance of a career. Anjana Ahuja reports

To work or not to work? Many women with young children know the dilemma all too well. With spiralling childcare costs, the balance between the merits of working and staying at home can seem rather delicate.

Imagine then, how much more difficult that situation becomes for single mothers, especially those with few or no qualifications. That is why the Rees-Mogg Training Scholarships, a pioneering scheme run by the Westminster Children's Society, is so important. The scheme was set up by

and named after Lady Rees-Mogg, the patron of the charity, who secured a £52,500 gift from an anonymous donor. Her idea was to provide up to two annual scholarships, offering lone parents (both mothers and fathers) living in Westminster the chance to train as childcare assistants. Their children, who must be aged between two and four, are given free places at one of the charity's nine nurseries in the borough. And, crucially, the scholarship does not jeopardise any state benefits the parent receives.

The training leads to a national vocational qualification (NVQ). However, the scheme can be a springboard to greater things. Sarah Green, a 31-year-old single mother from Maida Vale, was one of the first two recipients when the scheme was set up a year ago. She is now studying to be a teacher at Middlesex University.

Julie Sowter, 37, who lives in Pimlico, joined the scheme at the same time as Sarah (it is a mark of the scheme's flexibility that candidates can choose how long they take to complete the course). A divorced mother of two sons, Yasmeen, 11, and Adam, 4, Julie dropped out of school at 16. A warm, matronly woman, she admits to feeling very self-conscious about not having any qualifications.

As she had done some childminding, she had been wondering whether to apply to train as a nursery nurse. Two things put her off - she would have to find a permanent nursery place for Adam, and she thought her age would work against her. Then fate stepped in.

"I dropped Adam off at the

nursery one morning when I saw a poster about these scholarships," she says. "I asked one of the assistants about it and she said it was tailor-made for me."

Julie applied and was taken on. The spin-offs have been tremendous. Not only is she training for the career she wants, but the scheme has boosted her confidence. "The written work was a worry because it was so long since I had put pen to paper. But it made me think 'Come on Julie, you are just as good as anybody else.'"

Julie laughs nervously and apologises for taking her time to find the appropriate words to express herself. But the overwhelming reaction on meeting her is astonishment - at how this simple scheme has transformed her life: "I am definitely a stronger person now. I know I can achieve more."

She has a new ambition - to run her own nursery. "There's more to life than being a mum and staying at home. It's nice for a woman to have a career if she wants one. It gives you something else to talk about. It can be good for the kids, too - Yasmeen is quite proud of the fact I work."

Julie knows it will take a while to work her way up. However, to anybody watching her in action at the Stepping Stones Nursery, looking after a mixture of Tadpoles (6-18 months) and Ducklings (18 months-2½ years), her dedication is beyond doubt.

The scheme requires that Julie spends two days a week in a nursery, learning about the practical aspects of childcare. Her progress is checked by Rosalind Millam,

who came to the Westminster Children's Society in 1992 to set the charity up as an NVQ assessment centre.

Ms Millam is delighted with the progress of Sarah and Julie, and Naomi Muigua, a mother of three who has just been taken on as the third Rees-Mogg scholar, and cannot speak too highly of the scheme.

Candidates refine their social skills, learn how to work as part of a team, and how to prepare for interviews," Ms Millam says. "They learn how to make decisions and manage their time. They are encouraged to take responsibility. It is all about raising self-esteem."

Raising self-esteem is indeed an important part of the training process, according to Lady Rees-Mogg, who says the idea came to her in the middle of the night. "Lone parents are often decried and lumped together, and they can feel enormously isolated. As a result their expectations can be very low. This scheme connects them to the community, and to the real world. It provides highly trained childminders, gets single parents off benefits and gives them back a sense of self-worth. It gives them a choice. It is quite wonderful to see the transformation it has made to people's lives."

The charity has also gone to great lengths to show that its scheme is financially viable. Each scholarship is £12,130. It estimates that a lone parent on income support with one child under five costs the Government £7,000 in benefits.

If a candidate gets a job after training as a nursery assistant on an average salary of £10,500, he or she no longer claims benefits. The charity estimates that when income tax and National Insurance contributions are taken into account, the Government is £8,500 better off in other words, the scholarship pays for itself in 18 months.

Lady Rees-Mogg hopes the scheme will be a blueprint for other organisations. "Anybody who runs a nursery could start this sort of training programme. It means raising funds but charities are used to doing that, and it is such a worthwhile cause."

"It would mean better childminders and better assistance in the nursery, which has got to be a good thing. In wider terms, every new childminder releases three women into the workplace. And the idea that all single parents want to live on benefits is a myth. Many don't but are trapped by their circumstances. This sort of scheme gives them a way out."

To this end, the charity has sent leaflets to MPs, unions and childcare organisations with a frustratingly mute response. But Lady Rees-Mogg will continue to beat the drum. Her message is simple: "Look, it can be done."

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES

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Others sent off and took fault jobs. I'm still mucking around'

Valerie Grove on why Griff Rhys Jones abandoned history for the stage and became a Lost Boy

'Others went off and took adult jobs. I'm still mucking around'

D'Arcy Tuck, the twittish upper-class schemer Griff Rhys Jones plays in the revival of Ben Travers's farce *Plunder*, first enters "with a motor-coat and carrying a cap". How apt for Rhys Jones, who so immortalised the swaggering Mr Toad in *The Wind in the Willows*. But then he comes offstage after the rehearsal carrying a bright orange anorak. Goin' roadbuildin' I ask. He gives a laugh that sounds (Arf! Arf!) exactly like Basil Brush. Later he puts on this anorak to get into my car and I see it is not a piece of stage wardrobe, but a new coat he is rather proud of, useful for driving his tractor in Suffolk.

Rhys Jones's amiable comic characters have earned him a comfortable life, involving country weekends. "You can't take the bourgeois out of the man," he says, happily. He and his wife Jo, and children Catherine and George, live above a former machine-tool factory in Clerkenwell, which now sells fingerie to men in discreet dove-grey suits; every Friday the whole family hurries off to Suffolk.

The Rhys Jones comic voice can veer between Estuary (for laddish Smith and Jones sketches) and posh. For D'Arcy Tuck he is posh. Woosterish. Having read *Plunder*, a 1928 comedy with the usual period nuances in volving class, I conclude that as with all farces, it only work in performance, so you really have to be there — at the Savoy Theatre.

Something funny happened the last time he was due to sit at the Savoy, in 1990. It was another Ben Travers play, *Thark*. After an eight-week tour, just before the London opening, the Savoy Theatre burnt down. So *Thark* became one of his great unseen triumphs. He never met Ben Travers, but his friend Craig Brown did. "Travers was 9 and told Craig he would walk up every morning and say 'Not again.' Arf! Arf!"

Rhys Jones, veteran of Ayckbourn, Feydeau, Char-

ley's *Aunt* and *An Absolute Turkey*, loves farce. "The actual mechanics of farce are part of its delight. It's a very theatrical experience, very manipulative. Did you see *See How They Run*? Its central conceit is to have eight paratroopers disguised as vicars. And a dog. Utterly brilliant. People who don't like farces," he adds, "are rather hopeless people, don't you think?"

But it can be touch and go. "Sometimes an audience gets on the train, and other times the train chuffs out of the station and by the first interval we realise we've left the audience on the platform. With *Arturo Ui*, we had fantastic audiences in previews and then on the first night I could actually hear the rustlings and shufflings.

"And a royal prince" — Edward it was — "came backstage and said 'You seemed to be enjoying yourselves more than we were.'" (More Brush-like Arfs.) "Then his auntie came later, and she greatly enjoyed it."

Behind Rhys Jones's fizzing bonhomie there seems to be no sign of closet melancholia. He lost 21lb last year, entirely without trying; luckily, being on tour meant he could get to the shops. In Newcastle he bought a new blue velvet suit.

"Now I've become an actor," he says, "perhaps I should revert to Griffith. Being called Griff is a bit matey, isn't it? But there was already a distinguished fruity-voiced actor named Griffith Jones." Although brought up in England, Griff was born in Cardiff in 1953, son of a chest consultant. He called his Welsh grandparents Nain and Taid. From Brentwood School he found himself at Cambridge "with a clutch of other grammar school boys from the M25 circuit" reading history at Emmanuel. "Nice Wren buildings, but a bit dull until Norman St John-Stevens made it more colourful, Arf! Arf!"

He abandoned history, having discovered that no longer could one be cavalier with facts, as at school, but that one was obliged to write sociologically about the three-field sys-



"Now that I've become an actor perhaps I should revert to Griffith. Being called Griff is a bit matey, isn't it?"

tem in Lincolnshire in 1520. Since he was more amused by plays, as president of the Amateur Dramatic Club, he switched to English — in the thick of the structuralism debate over Colin MacCabe. "Charming fellow, and a huge enthusiast for any barmy theory that came along."

The BBC discovered him at the Edinburgh Festival, directing a show called *Fag with a radio producer*, until John Lloyd brought him into *Not The Nine O'Clock News*. "We've all ended up in the same snakepit," Rhys Jones says, of Footlights contemporaries Clive Anderson and Rory McGrath. "So there seemed no break between university and real life. Others went off and took jobs and led a proper adult life but we've all just gone on like the Lost Boys, continuing to muck around in our mid-forties. And then you meet John Bird and think 'Well, you're still mucking around as well, 20 years on. When are you going to get a proper job?'"

As a child he admired Charlie Drake, who was then half of a Fifties slapstick duo called Mick and Montmorency. Male comedy thrives in pairs; and the double act of Rhys Jones and Mel Smith, born in the early Eighties, has never gone away; they can still be heard on Radio 2. Last Saturday there was a very funny sketch about bird songs.

Playing Mr Toad at the National was, he says, the nearest thing to giving his Hamlet. I am surprised that Terry Jones did not ask him to play Toad in his film. Rhys Jones told me how the two met in Groucho's by chance. "Hel-

lo Griffith" cried Terry. "I'm making a film of *The Wind in the Willows* and I've just been talking to Alan Bennett who said you were good as Toad. But I can't find anybody to play it, so I think I'm going to do it myself." "I took it with good grace," says Griff.

Like Toad he took to motor-ing late in life. "I used to despise cars, like everyone who can't drive, and I never bothered because I could not afford a car. But when you first become a television star you walk past a shop window and think 'I could go in and buy that car. Or that car.' And I had to learn to drive because I had agreed to do a Hertz commercial, to be filmed in Arizona and Paris. They never even asked if I could drive." He got his licence the day before flying to Paris. "So my first ever drive was in this powerful car through the streets of Paris, dressed as a silly American tourist. On the Champs Elyses the lights changed to red, and the camera car scooted across so I followed, and only got half-way, blocking three lanes of traffic. I had to lock all the windows, so many people got out of their cars to attack me."

A part from the voice-overs he does for Talkback, the production company he runs with Mel Smith, he has become the presenter of the BBC2 programme *The Bookworm* on Sunday afternoons. At last — a books programme that makes dramatic television, using locations: Beje-man's Cornwall, Conan Doyle's Edinburgh, Roddy Doyle's Dublin wastelands. What astonishes him is that the director decides what an interviewee will say.

"So people say things they would not naturally say. In places they would not normally sit — all part of making truthful television, but in fact a cheat. And yet in fiction you try to make something artificial seem real."

Having taken late to motor-ing he has a penchant for classic cars. "It immediately appealed to me, the aura of tastefulness, elegance and other-worldly romanticism — like the people who own beautiful old wooden boats and wear Breton fishermen's hats." The only thing that worries him about his children's childhood is that it isn't boring enough: "I remember my childhood being full of the most excruciating boredom, punctuated by Hancock and Monty Python."

The twelve dilemmas of Christmas

The festive season brings tricky problems. Giles Coren reports

You bought your Christmas cards in Sainsbury's this year. All very well and good. But as you popped the first batch into the postbox you realised that you had sent one of these cheapo efforts to the boss. Will this do? Or should it have been a £4 handmade card-sculpture by Funky Eclectica? Then again, would it do to outcard your employer? This is only the first of the 12 dilemmas of Christmas.

church, and reuniting with old friends in the candlelight. Then again, you may be too late to get a seat, the hymn-sheet might consist entirely of experimental Post-Modern carols by young Peruvian composers, and you'll get home so late you'll never get up in time to roast the turkey.

Do you put a red ring round all the things in *Radio Times* you want to watch over the festive period? Or is that a bit sad?

Do you admit there is no Father Christmas? Little Geoffrey hears the rumours at school and pops the big question on Christmas Eve. Do you perpetuate the great Nordic myth of the unseen bearded benefactor, thus making Geoffrey one of the mugs who stands up for elves and tooth-fairies well into his teens? Or do you do the responsible thing, and tell him where babies come from at the same time?

Do you pretend you believe in Father Christmas? Mum and Dad seem to get so much pleasure from the pretence, making you leave out mince pies and a carrot for Rudolph, and all that. Do you let them know you know? Or pretend to be asleep when the old man totters in, and then say "Ooh, look what Santa brought" in the morning?

What do you say to non-Christians? How do you avoid that red-faced moment when you say "Merry Christmas", even as you realise that he couldn't care less how lowly the catfished was, nor how bleak the midwinter. You try to make amends with "Happy new year," remembering too late that in most cases it isn't that either.

Do you open the presents before or after lunch? Or even on Christmas Eve, like the French? And is it possible to change your family tradition once it is fixed?

Do you give presents in the office? No.



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ALL AT SEA

Time for Britain to help push out the UN lifeboat

The rusty old liner lost its bearings months ago. In winter seas, it is shipping more and more water. They are playing cards in the engine-room because no orders are coming down from the bridge. Both crew and passengers know that the captain became fatally incapacitated months ago. They are waiting for one of his relatives to volunteer for his job, although there is no logical reason for keeping it in a family not noted for outstanding seamanship. The relatives have anyway been dithering, arguing that the ship's doctor must first pronounce the captain dead. Stand by for the Lutine bell.

Thus is the United Nations preparing to enter the 21st century. Fully five months ago, the United States announced that it would veto the bid by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN's 74-year-old Secretary-General, for a second five-year term. It was the right decision, for a host of reasons other than the Secretary-General's advanced age — or even his disastrous mishandling of the UN mission in Bosnia. The UN badly needs a more persuasive voice and more dynamic and flexible management. Mr Boutros Ghali's earlier insistence that he would serve only one term made this the ideal time to break with the damaging convention that re-election is the incumbent's unwritten right.

But even if America had made the wrong decision, Mr Boutros Ghali was politically dead from June onwards. However much this irritates other states, the UN's authority rests on the readiness of its most powerful member to work with and through it. Washington's power to change things is however limited to the veto; resentment would kill the chances of any candidate it backed. The only sensible response for others was to turn the US veto to good use by finding an outstanding successor; but UN politics are fuelled by pique, not sense. Futility and foolishly determined to "punish" Washington for exercising its right of choice in the matter, every other member of the Security Council, discreditably including Britain, voted for Mr Boutros Ghali in the first round last month. Worse still, they agreed that if he were to

withdraw, Africa must not thereby be deprived of its "right" to a full ten years at the UN helm. With this irresponsible decision to put political correctness before political effectiveness, Washington has so far publicly agreed. The entirely predictable result has been further damaging delay while the utterly disorganised Organisation of African Unity — which Mr Boutros Ghali, whose spiritual home is Paris rather than Africa, had persuaded that the American veto was an insult to the continent — wrestled with its conscience. Yesterday, the OAU finally allowed some names, none of them inspiring, to go forward to the Security Council. The timing is not fortuitous; it has been heavily lobbied by France, which is out to slip one of its francophone African clients into the post; and tomorrow in Ouagadougou, France just happens to be holding a high-profile summit with African leaders.

The curtain should be brought down on this farce before it damages the UN beyond repair. The deadline is a mere fortnight away; the General Assembly, which must endorse the Security Council's nomination, is due to shut up shop for the year on December 17. Britain, a permanent member of the Security Council, insists that it has no preference and is happy to sit the game out hoping that some "viable" African candidate — faint ambition indeed — will be found. This attitude is incompatible with Britain's insistence that it is serious about UN reform. Britain should be exploiting its Commonwealth links to sound out Asian capitals on a step that could be presented as a genuflection to geographical "fairness" but would in practice give the UN the strong management it needs. In the rotation of Buggins' turn, Asia follows Africa; and in Sadako Ogata, the highly respected and experienced Japanese UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Asia has a woman who could give the UN the best leadership it has ever had. It may be too late to launch the lifeboat; the attempt may fail; but it is worth a try. If even Britain cannot take this contest seriously, the UN is in miserable shape indeed.

CUNNINGHAM'S NUMBER

Labour has sensible ideas to improve the Lottery

The National Lottery should have been, and still could be, an unalloyed political success. The ingredients are there: the chance for punters to win money, and the distribution of huge sums to good causes. Within the next few years, there will be few in the country whose life will not have in some way been enhanced by the Lottery. Yet, despite some desperate defensive advertising, the institution lacks the popularity that it would like.

Some people disapprove of gambling; their doubts will never be assuaged. But other forms of disquiet can be addressed, and many of them are dealt with in Labour's new report on the future of the Lottery, launched yesterday by Jack Cunningham, Shadow National Heritage Secretary.

Two structural problems have added to popular anxiety about the lottery: its operator and its regulation. Camelot is perceived to be making too much money. Every penny that goes into Camelot shareholders' pockets is money that could otherwise have been distributed to good causes. The willingness of Richard Branson to run the lottery without taking a profit has not been forgotten: the type of profit incentive for which Camelot bid was never necessary. Labour rightly wants to see an efficient, not-for-profit organisation running the lottery.

Dr Cunningham also recognises the potential conflicts of interest inherent in the role of the regulator. Of the Director-General should not both choose the operator and regulate its activities. Nor should he be responsible both for maximising Camelot's profits and representing the consumer interest. These conflicts have already thrown up enough disquieting behaviour to warrant the removal from office of the current Director-General, Peter Davis. Labour suggests that the roles be separated.

Another objection to the lottery is that it is a tax on the poor to pay for the playthings of the rich. This charge has contained a grain of truth. With so many playing the Lottery, many more should reap its rewards. A way of achieving this end is Labour's idea of "Community Chests", allowing sums to be distributed locally for locally determined priorities. Another would be to favour those projects with the highest element of volunteering; the commitment of people's time and energy would demonstrate local support.

Then there is the question of what should be done after the turn of the century with the fifth of the money that now goes to the Millennium Commission. The Government's solution of redistributing the money to the other four good causes shows a lack of imagination. Labour has two good proposals. One is to mark children and young people as permanent beneficiaries. The other interesting idea is to fund projects that may slip through the net of the Exchequer but which can eventually be self-financing. Insulating old people's houses is a "spend to save" measure that pays off in the long run. Training teachers to use information technology bridges a generational gap that will no longer exist when this cohort of schoolchildren become teachers. A "National Endowment for the Arts, Humanities and Science" will produce an income stream to encourage young talent for centuries to come.

This document should be an example to some of Dr Cunningham's colleagues. The thinking is original and mostly sensible. It is pragmatic and consumer-led rather than ideological and friendly to trade unions. In a small part of the Shadow portfolio, Dr Cunningham has shown that Labour can be different from the Conservatives without making itself unelectable in the process.

AND NOW FOR REAL GAMBLERS

The tables of Beirut signal that business is back to normal

The horses are prancing, the girls are dancing and the lights sparkle as brightly as the glitter of the sheikhs' jewelled fingers. After 20 years of drear darkness, the big gamblers are back at their tables. The Casino du Liban, the fastest and most spectacular pleasure dome east (or west) of Las Vegas, is back in business. Lebanon, once the playground of the rich, the oil-rich and the nouveau riches has found its soul again. After two decades of banditry and destruction, the resourceful Switzerland of the Middle East is again doing what comes naturally: playing host to playboys.

In Monte Carlo, the famed gaming rooms are ruled with the iron restraint of etiquette, snobbery and the merest hint of a croupier's disapproving eyebrow. In Vegas the clunks of a one-armed bandit army disturb the velvet peace. It was always in the Casino du Liban where French chic met Middle Eastern wealth in shameless, hedonistic exhibitionism. The rules who remember Lebanon's sinful Sixties become misty-eyed when they recall the stows of yesterday. *La Parisienne*. Hello and *Mais Oui*.

The casino entertainment was intended to dwarf anything that America could produce. Satellites descended from the top of the hall; chandeliers were filled with dancers; a real

train roared across the stage; there were elephants, waterfalls and dolphins. Inaugurated on January 1, 1958, the casino was the natural home of Charles Aznavour, Johnny Halliday, Dalida and their friends.

It all had to end, when the bubble of Lebanon's festering society broke in 1976. The casino tried to carry on, insouciant of the encroaching violence, bloodshed and religious division. But the smart set drifted away, and only the determined Lebanese, manically grinning while their hands fingered the guns beneath their dinner jackets, tried to keep the fun going.

The war is now over, however. The five-star hotels are being rebuilt, the banks are again swallowing up petrodollar deposits and Beirut is one vast reconstruction site. There is a nostalgia for the old days of decadence which an enterprising Briton, the casino's new vice-president, has been quick to fill. A £30-million facelift, a brand new set of gaming rooms where the minimum bet is £1,000, and the helpful intervention of a Government always solicitous of the needs of the rich, have helped the phoenix arise. A few miles away, Hezbollah may be planning new guerrilla attacks. But Lebanese eyes will be dazzled by the glitz of the new show. Truly, the country is back to normal.

Russia's threat to Nato expansion

From Dr Robert McGeehan

Sir, The threat by Igor Rodionov, the Russian Defence Minister, that Russian nuclear weapons could be targeted on Central and Eastern European states if they join Nato (report, November 29) is grimly reminiscent of the crude attempts by the Soviet Union in the early 1980s to similarly intimidate the members of the Atlantic alliance that had agreed to receive new American intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

Such coercive tactics did not succeed then and should not influence current deliberations on Nato enlargement, but they are a timely reminder that the former superpower to the east remains the only real potential aggressor in Europe, should its present efforts to move towards democracy collapse.

General Rodionov's further threats to renounce Russian commitments under the START treaty and create its own "defensive military alliance" are additional reminders that the grizzly bear has a long way to go before it becomes a teddy.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT MCGEEHAN
(Assistant Director,
Institute of United States Studies,
University of London,
Senate House, Malet Street, WC1,
November 29.

From Mr Frank Allain

Sir, Russian Defence Minister Rodionov says that his country could re-target nuclear weapons towards Eastern European countries if they join Nato. He thereby confirms the warning given by Mr Gorbachev to Western leaders during his recent London visit that, if Nato expands into Eastern Europe, Russia would be tempted to tear up its disarmament treaties with them.

This is a very real danger as Russia sees Nato military forces approaching her frontiers. British troops were this autumn sent from Germany for training on the ground in Lvov previously used by Russian tanks.

It is planned to add Eastern and Central European states to the existing Nato countries. When that takes place it could mean their accepting Nato tanks, artillery and aircraft and even nuclear weapons on their territories. It has been denied by American spokesmen that nuclear bombs will be sent, but it is significant that Poland and the Czech Republic seem ready to accept the possibility of nuclear weapons being based on their soil. It is surprising that the Russian Government is alarmed, although it has not so clearly stated this hitherto.

Mr Gorbachev is entitled to be listened to. It was his unilateral moves beginning in 1987 which led to the ending of the Cold War and the arms race. It would be tragic if they returned.

Yours sincerely,
FRANK ALLAIN
(Labour MP for East Salford, 1955-83),
11 Eastleigh Road, Manchester,
December 2.

Social security changes

From the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Social Security

Sir, As the minister responsible for the Social Security appeal system I was surprised to read Mr Alan Howarth's letter (November 26) on the changes I introduced recently. These are modest, practical measures to improve the efficiency of the Independent Tribunal Service and will not in any way reduce appellants' rights.

Contrary to the assertions in Mr Howarth's letter these changes did not involve any "high-handed" behaviour or mockery of Parliamentary procedure.

The amendments to the appeal regulations to which Mr Howarth refers were outlined in the recent Green Paper, *Improving Decision Making and Appeals*, where it was made clear, at paragraph 1.7, that it was planned to introduce them this autumn, subject to the usual consultation with the Council on Tribunals. The aim was to improve the current service while consultation was under way on more radical longer-term options.

These regulation changes followed the well-established procedure for negative resolution in Parliament — and the same will apply to the regulations changing the way earnings are calculated, to which Mr Howarth also referred. This means that a debate is not required before the regulations come into force, as Mr Howarth well knows.

Negative resolution regulations may be debated in Parliament if members seek a debate and time can be found for one. Debates on the appeal system changes took place in the Commons Standing Committee on November 7, during which Mr Howarth spoke, as well as in the Lords on November 19. If it is the will of Parliament, the other changes will be debated in due course.

Yours etc,
ROGER EVANS,
Department of Social Security,
Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, SW1,
November 27.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Views on a Budget that 'discriminates against families'

From Mr James Sandilands

Sir, One wonders if members of the Cabinet talk to one another. In the same week that the Chancellor announces that the level of financial support to London Transport is to be cut (Budget report, November 27) — a move hardly designed to discourage the trend for families to move out of the city — his colleague, the Environment Secretary, told the Commons (report, November 26) that the Government is raising its targets for the number of homes it hopes to see built on inner-city land.

The latter announcement was given in the context of a forecast that large swaths of southern and central England will be subjected to urban sprawl. This speed of this irreversible process can surely be slowed by more — not less — investment in London's infrastructure.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES SANDILANDS,
58 Donerale Street, SW6,
November 28.

From Mr Tony M. Bailey-Smith

Sir, I live in a rural area with no bus or rail link to my place of work: a journey of 18 miles which I am compelled to take by car.

How can I, in the Chancellor's words, "take steps to cut fuel consumption" and implement the encouragement to "fuel efficiency"?

Yours,
TONY M. BAILEY-SMITH,
Brook House,
Aldham, nr Ipswich, Suffolk.

From Mr M. T. Gardner

Sir, The tables showing the amount of income tax paid by families at different income levels in your Budget supplement (November 27; letters, November 29) showed starkly how the British tax system discriminates against the traditional family unit of a working husband supporting a non-working wife and children.

Saving St Pancras

From Lord Amptill

Sir, Professor Michael Hunter (letter, November 29) may well be right about the lack of public consultation about the removal of the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey, but his strictures that there has been insufficient attention to St Pancras are seriously adrift.

The Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill received consideration in the Commons over 17 months with no less than 17 sittings of the select committee, a record number. It was in the Lords for six months and their select committee sat in public for 31 full days and in private or visiting sites for many more.

Both the professor and Giles Worsley (article, November 21) are possibly unaware of the procedure in a hybrid Bill of this complexity whereby by many chunks of legislation are displaced and then replaced with contractually binding undertakings and agreements to give the protection

required. In the case of the Channel Tunnel rail link these amount to around 600, including a heritage deed between the promoters, English Heritage and Camden, the local planning authority. The draft deed was published on October 15 in the Lords select committee's special report, which is widely available.

The future of St Pancras, both William Barlow's train shed and Sir Gilbert Scott's chambers, was a matter of the deepest concern to the select committee and the House. The select committee is in no doubt whatsoever that it will be preserved and enhanced in the plans which are being developed by London and Continental Railways in conjunction with Norman Foster Associates.

Yours faithfully,
AMPTILL
(Chairman, Select Committee on the Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill),
House of Lords,
November 29.

From the Chairman, Association of Metropolitan Authorities

Sir, May I take up two points in your otherwise excellent coverage of the local authority financial settlement (report, November 28). I did not claim

that "the pursuit for efficiency was destroying services" — on the contrary I made it clear that the local authority associations' assessment of spending needs was predicated on achieving a further £400 million efficiency savings next year. I did however make it clear that efficiency savings could not bridge the gap between the Government's spending plans for local authorities and the cost of maintaining services and meeting new requirements.

Further, the Government is wrong in saying there is a "2.5 per cent settlement". That figure includes transfer of responsibilities and funding to go with it in respect of a further tranche of community care. Taking that out makes for an increase in spending plans of 1.8 per cent on the Government's own calculations. But even that is not being funded by the Government. Government grant on all local authority services, including the police, will go up by only 0.6 per cent, or, excluding the police, by 0.2 per cent. It is this which leads to the projected average of 6 per cent council tax increase.

Yours sincerely,
JEREMY BEECHAM,
Chairman,
Association of Metropolitan Authorities,
35 Great Smith Street, SW1,
November 28.

Kawasaki disease

From Dr Jack Gillon

Sir, If aspirin were the only treatment available for the very sick children Dr Thomas Stuttford describes in his brief article about Kawasaki disease (Body and Mind, November 28) it might indeed be justifiable for the general practitioner to manage the child at home: until the diagnosis becomes clear.

It has, however, been known for some years that high-dose intravenous gamma globulin, or in some cases plasma exchange, can be effective in treating this life-threatening disease. These treatments can only be administered in hospital, and I would support the view that children as ill as those described by Dr Stuttford should be seen by a paediatrician.

Yours faithfully,
JACK GILLON
(Consultant physician),
Edinburgh and SE Scotland
Blood Transfusion Service,
Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh 3,
November 29.

Libya revisited

From Mr Adrian Newman

Sir, I wish Mrs Daisy Norris, the defiant widow visiting her first husband's grave in Libya (report, November 25), my very best regards.

I travelled to Tripoli on business in June, and was met by nothing but friendliness and politeness. The Libyan people were courteous and helpful, and there was no resentment or overt signs of government interference. Indeed, the only unpleasant part of the trip was the interminably long drive from Tunisia, and the rather unprepossessing frontier posts.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ADRIAN NEWMAN,
20 Munster Road,
Teddington, Middlesex,
November 28.

Unacceptable

From Mr Robert Worboys

Sir, In a letter today headed "Thatcher's speech", the phrases "neither of us were involved" and "neither of us were part of" are used.

I have been forced to reluctantly accept the split infinitive. I have even taken red wine with fish, but I cannot and will not accept that the word neither is plural. Nor, for the record, is none.

Yours faithfully,
R. K. WORBOYS,
60 Minister Court, Darlaston,
Wedgebury, West Midlands,
November 25.

Beak's revenge

From Mr Brian Etheridge

Sir, As a retired schoolmaster who failed in his ambition to become headmaster of a famous public school, I am planning to sue every pupil (report, December 2) who, through indolence and indiscipline, was responsible for my lack of success.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN ETHERIDGE,
Classica House,
High Street, Burford, Oxfordshire,
December 2.

Freedom of speech

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, On July 30 you published a letter from me criticising the proposal being floated by unknown Labour sources to give the Chief Whip greater power to withdraw the whip from Labour MPs who "consistently criticise the leader" when the Chief Whip does not have any existing power to do so.

Today you report that Mr Blair's office has said that there will be "no disciplinary action" against Ms Diane Abbott, the MP for Hackney North and Stoke Newington, for her criticism of a hospital for employing blonde, blue-eyed Finnish nurses.

What authority does Mr Blair have to discipline (whatever that means) any MP for anything an MP says, however barmy? Ms Abbott is responsible to her constituents for her silly observations, not to Mr Blair or his anonymous factotums, whose wages have been paid by anonymous donors.

What next — an *Index Librorum Prohibitorum* prepared by Mr Mandelson?

I have the honour to remain,
Sir, your obedient servant,
ROY ROEBUCK
(Labour MP, Harrow East, 1966-70),
12 Brookside Street, NI,
November 29.

Canterbury and Rome

From the Reverend Dr Ian M. Ellis

Sir, Your correspondent Richard Owen reports from Rome (November 30) that the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Pope will celebrate Vespers together during Dr Carey's visit to the Vatican. The significant point is that it is not Holy Communion.

Of course, one is aware that the Roman Catholic Church has its theological reasons for confining the sharing of the Eucharist, except in certain restricted circumstances, to those who are in full communion with the Pope. Indeed, Anglicans used to exclude others from Holy Communion, but reflection on the matter has changed practice.

Even within its own ecclesiology, could the Roman Catholic Church not permit inter-church families to share in the Holy Communion together, and admit members of other churches to eucharistic sharing on occasions that are specifically for the purposes of furthering the unity of the Church? The work of Christian unity can surely only benefit from the grace of the sacrament.

Yours faithfully,
IAN M. ELLIS,
The Rectory,
1 King Street, Newcastle, Co Down,
December 2.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 2: The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a reception at the Currier Club, London WC2, to mark the publication of a catalogue of the Club's pictures and were received by the Chairman of the General Committee (Mr Anthony Butler).
His Royal Highness, The Duke of Cornwall, this morning attended a Council Meeting and Lunch at St George's House, Windsor.
The Duke of Edinburgh this afternoon visited North Luffield, Maidenhead, and was received by Mr Leonard Reynolds (Deputy Lieutenant of the County of Berkshire).
His Royal Highness, The Duke of Gloucester, this evening attended a Dinner at the Garrick Club.
Mr William Huxtable (Deputy Lieutenant of the West Midlands) was present at Birmingham Airport this afternoon upon the arrival of President Mary Robinson and Mr Nicholas Robinson and welcomed them on behalf of The Queen.

Premium Bonds

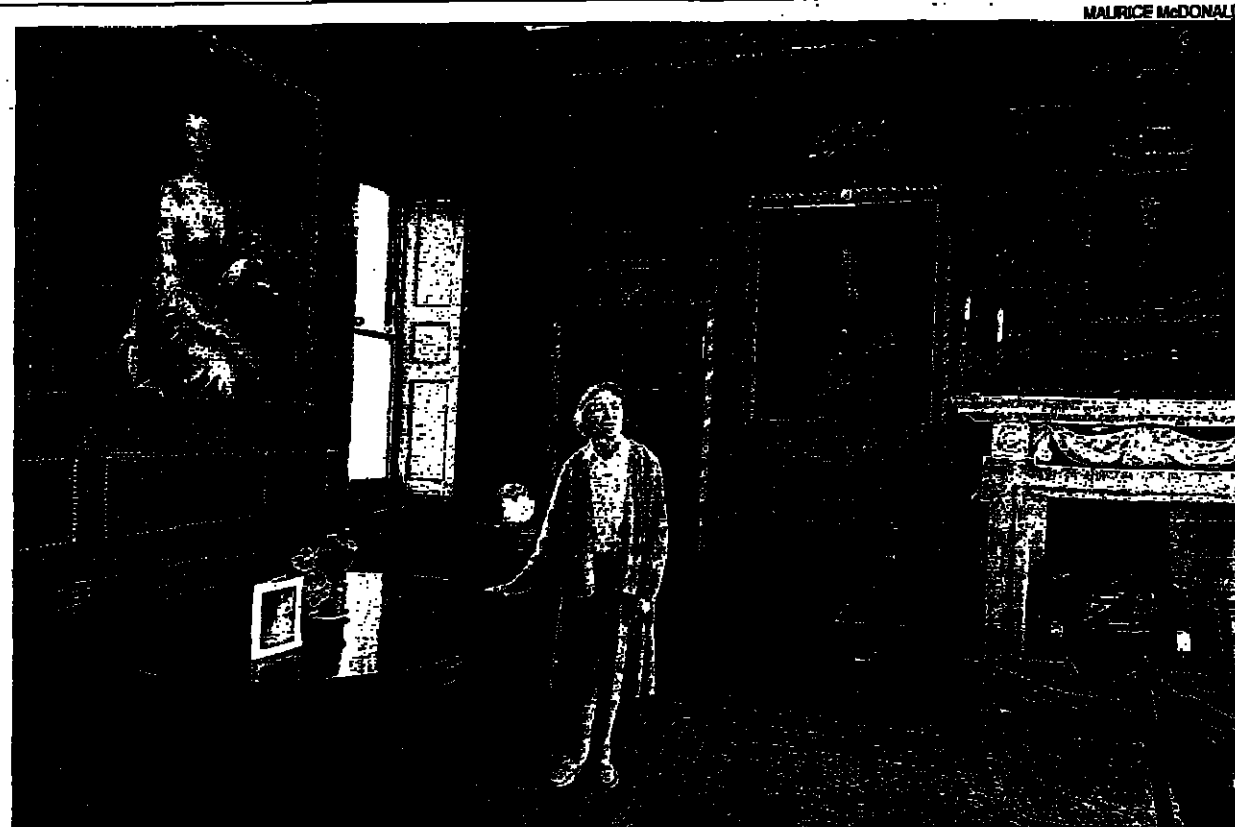
The £1 million prize in the Premium Bond draw for December was won with bond number 58QN 953083. The winner lives in Devon, and has a bond holding of £9,000.

School news

Down House
The Governors of Down House are pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Emma McKendrick BA, currently Headmistress of the Royal School, Bath, as Headmistress from September 1, 1997.
The Royal School, Bath
The Board of Governors of The Royal School, Bath is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Christine Edmundson, currently Deputy Head, as Headmistress of the Royal School in succession to Mrs Emma McKendrick from September 1, 1997. The Board warmly congratulates Mrs McKendrick upon her appointment as Headmistress of Down House in Berkshire.
Appointment
Mr Robert K. Littlejohn has been appointed Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Today's birthdays

Professor E.W. Abel, President of the Royal Society of Chemistry, 65; Mr Trevor Bailey, former cricketer, 73; Mr Ralph Bennett, former chairman, London Transport Executive, 73; Mr John Bunker, founder, The Winged Footings, 82; Professor Ian Butterworth, former Principal, Queen Mary and Westfield College, 60; Mr Charles Craig, 78; Mr Mike Gibson, former rugby player, 54; M Jean-Luc Godard, film director, 64; Miss Daryl Hannah, actress, 36; Sir William Harpham, former diplomat, 80; Mr Maxwell Hutchinson, architect, 48; Sir Brian Jenkins, former Lord Mayor of London, 61; Professor G.S. Kirk, FBA, former Regius Professor of



Lady Antonia Dalrymple at Newhailes, the house her family has owned for more than 200 years
18th-century 'time capsule' saved for £12m

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN exceptional Scottish country-house, a 1730s time capsule that has remained virtually unchanged for 200 years, has been saved for the nation.
Newhailes, a stately home at Musselburgh near Edinburgh, has been acquired by the National Trust for Scotland. Historic carvings, elaborate iron balustrades and a gilt-enriched chimney-piece, which some are showing signs of their age, will be restored to their original state. Many of the walls have not received a coat of paint since the 1730s builders packed up their brushes and left. They will remain like that.
The announcement was made by Michael Forsyth, the Secretary of State for Scotland, who responded to the National Trust for Scotland's appeal for £12.7 million. The National Heritage Memorial Trust is among other grant-giving bodies.
Newhailes's trustees and the elderly last surviving member of the family that installed its original decorations could no longer afford to maintain the house. The cost of battling against dry rot



Newhailes, a country house near Musselburgh, has been virtually untouched since it was built

proved too much, though the idea of selling up was distressing for Lady Antonia Dalrymple. The house was originally bought by an ancestor of her late husband, Sir Mark Dalrymple, the last Baronet of Hailes, purchased in 1707, and it had remained with the Dalrymples — a family of judges, lord advocates and secretaries of state — ever since. Lady Antonia lived there for half a century.
Over the years, historic baroque plasterwork with gilded seashells, a motif that continues throughout the house, steadily flaked away. Lady Antonia could only save the chippings — a jigsaw that she felt would one day be reassembled by restorers. "Any money we had had to be spent on dry rot," she explained. "That's why the house is in the state it is in."
She recalled that the trustees had "talked of Christie's coming" and auctioning off the contents, while the house would be put on the market. "A horrible thought."
In 1976, she saw the house's

library and archive leave for the National Library of Scotland in lieu of duties after her husband's death. Douglas Dow, director of the trust, said: "It is highly likely that, if the trust acquires Newhailes, the collection will be returned to fill the empty shelves of the library which Dr Johnson called 'the most learned library in Europe'."
He added: "With its matchless architecture, interiors and contents, Newhailes is enormously important. Its interior, with its marvellous portraits and elaborate rococo decoration, transports the visitor to the early 18th century and the world of the Scottish Enlightenment."

Memorial service

Mr R.C.C. (Clem) Thomas
A service of celebration for the life of Mr Richard Clement Thomas (Clem) Thomas, former Captain of Wales and former rugby correspondent of The Observer, was held yesterday at St Bricks, Fleet Street. Canon John Oates officiated.
Mr Gregory Thomas, son, read the lesson. Mr Christopher Thomas, son, read from his father's works. Mrs Caroline Pumphrey, daughter, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland and Mr Mark Thomas, son, read his own work.
Mr Peter Corrigan, Mr Geoffrey Nicholson and Mr Chris Ken of the Independent on Sunday, Mr Gavin Hastings, of the British Lions and Scotland, Mr Nigel Summer-Smith, BBC Television, and Mr Ian Robertson, BBC Radio, gave addresses. Dr Joyce Thomas (widow), Dr and Mrs Nicholson Bowley (stepson and step-daughter-in-law), Mr and Mrs Richard Wilkinson (stepson-in-law and stepdaughter) and other members of the family, friends and colleagues were among those present.

Sir Roderick Barclay

A Memorial Service for Sir Roderick Barclay will be held at St Paul's, Wilton Place, Knightsbridge, on Thursday, January 23, at noon. All are welcome.

Geoff Hamilton

A Service of Celebration of the Life and Skills of Geoff Hamilton, BBC Gardening Journalist, will be held on Thursday, December 5, at 11.30am, at St John's Wood Church, Lord's Roundabout, NW8. A limited number of tickets are still available from the BBC.

Christening

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Ian Sumner was christened Alex by the Rev Wendy Smith at St Paul's, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, on Sunday, December 1, 1996. The godparents are Mr M.G. Sumner, uncle, and Mr Ronald H. Evans.

Meeting

Royal Over-Sea League
Miss Joanna Bogle was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Circle of the Royal Over-Sea League held last night at Over-Sea House, St James's. Mrs Mairi Radcliff presided.

Luncheon

Coal Industry Society
Mr M.G. Crutwell, President of the Coal Industry Society, introduced the Rev David Jenkins as the principal guest and speaker at a luncheon of the society held yesterday at the Park Lane Hotel, Mr A.J.A. Third presided.

Service dinner

Cavalry Colonels
The Minutes of Anglessey, author of The History of the British Cavalry, was the principal guest at the annual dinner of the Cavalry Colonels which was held at the Cavalry and Guards Club last night.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr W.A.D. St L. Gethin
and Miss E.A. Stewart-Wilson
The engagement is announced between William Anthony David St Lawrence, younger son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Gethin, and Belinda Anthea, youngest daughter of Lieutenant Colonel Sir Blair and Lady Stewart-Wilson.
Mr M. Decker
and Miss J.E. Nicholson
The engagement is announced between Matthew, only son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Decker, of Bristol, Avon, and Jane Elizabeth, youngest daughter of the Rev Dr E.W. and Mrs Nicholson, of Oriel College, Oxford.
Mr A.S.O. Jones-Perrott
and Miss S.H.C. Green
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Jones-Perrott, of Llanfairfawr, Pwys, and Sarah, daughter of the late Mr Bill Green and of Mrs Green, of Badingham, Suffolk.
Mr D.C.C. Pears
and Miss W.J. J.
The engagement is announced between David, third son of Major Mrs A.W.C. Pears, of South Bedfordshire, Somerset, and Wendy, daughter of Professor Hong Ji and Mrs Peng Lin Ji, of Shanghai.

Marriage

Mr S. Canfield Rogers
and Miss Y. Lencastre
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 9, 1996, in Canterbury, of Mr Simon Canfield Rogers, of Miss Yolande Lencastre, of Leuven, Belgium.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Samuel Crompton, inventor of the spinning mule, 1733; Sir Rowland Hill, originator of the penny post, Kidderminster, 1795; Frederick Leighton, Baron Leighton, President of the Royal Academy, 1879-96; Scarborough, 1836; Joseph Conrad, novelist, 1857; Anton von Weimern, composer, Vienna, 1883; Rajendra Prasad, 1st President of the Republic of India 1950-63; Zoraida, Bihar, 1894.

DEATHS: Francis Xavier, missionary, Shang-chai, China, 1822; Robert Louis Stevenson, writer, Samoa, 1894; Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Church of Christ, Scientist, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, 1910; Pierre Renoir, painter, Cagnes, France, 1919; Dame Mary Gilmore, poet, 1902; Sir Oswald Mosley, politician, founder of the British Union of Fascists, Paris, 1980.

Neon lighting — developed by French physicist Georges Claude, was displayed for the first time at the Paris Motor Show, 1910.

Dr Christian Barnard carried out the world's first heart transplant, Broome Shastar-Hospital, Cape Town, 1967.
More than 3,000 people were killed as a result of a chemical spillage at the Union Carbide pesticide factory in Bhopal, India, 1984.

Warwickshire

Lieutenancy
Mr Robert Hardman Graham Sleggett, of Wellesbourne, Warwick, has been appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Warwickshire.

BMDS: 0171 680 6880
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9312

BIRTHS

ALDOUSIAN — On November 28th at the Portland Hospital to Emma and Paul Aldous, a son, Mohammed, a brother for Keem and Javahar.

BARNETT — On November 29th at the Portland Hospital to Emma and Paul Barnett, a son, Mohammed, a brother for Keem and Javahar.

BARNWELL — On November 28th at the Portland Hospital to Emma and Paul Barnett, a son, Mohammed, a brother for Keem and Javahar.

BATHURST — On November 28th at the Portland Hospital to Emma and Paul Barnett, a son, Mohammed, a brother for Keem and Javahar.

BURDET — On November 28th at the Portland Hospital to Emma and Paul Barnett, a son, Mohammed, a brother for Keem and Javahar.

CLEMPSON — On November 28th at the Portland Hospital to Emma and Paul Barnett, a son, Mohammed, a brother for Keem and Javahar.

DAVIS — On November 28th at the Portland Hospital to Emma and Paul Barnett, a son, Mohammed, a brother for Keem and Javahar.

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OBITUARIES

SIR CLAUDE HAYES

Sir Claude Hayes, KCMG, chairman of the Crown Agents, died on November 20 aged 84. He was born on March 23, 1912.

As head of the Crown Agents for six years, Claude Hayes accepted full responsibility for the crisis which engulfed the department in the early 1970s. Appointed in 1968 from his previous post as principal finance officer at the Ministry of Overseas Development, he presided over a shift in investment policy which saw the agency plunge £210 million into the red.

The organisation had been founded in 1833 to act as a procurement agency for Britain's growing number of colonies, supplying them with anything from railway track to postage stamps. It charged a low rate of commission for its services and ran at a small profit, usually under the direction of some former colonial governor who found it a congenial post before retirement.

In the late 1960s, however, concern about the agency's long-term future — and that of its 1,700 staff — led its managers to try to build up its modest reserves, by more ambitious use of the £1,000 million annually passing through their hands.

They scored some initial successes. One small company which they acquired for £8,000 was sold for more than £1 million. But they found themselves trapped by the secondary banking crisis and the property crash of the early 1970s. One firm collapsed after another, exposing an embarrassing sequence of high-risk speculations and unsecured loans. It caused a financial scandal which shook the nation.

While there was no suggestion of misconduct, the Crown Agents were accused of incompetence and of acting without the authority of Whitehall. Meanwhile Hayes claimed in his defence that he had asked Whitehall in vain for a City investment expert to advise him.

As the man in charge, however, he acknowledged that the buck stopped with him. "I am to blame," he said on television. "There is no mistake about that." Earlier, in May 1974, he had agreed with the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England that his organisation was on the verge of bankruptcy.

That did not stop him from being one month later appointed KCMG in the



The King of Tonga being received by Hayes in 1969

1974 Birthday Honours List, the same year in which he retired. Nonetheless, it must have been a disappointing end to the career of a gifted man, who had made his own way in life from humble beginnings.

Claude (James) Hayes was born at West Hoathly, Sussex, elder son of the village carpenter, and financed his own education by winning scholarships. One took him to Ardingly College, where he won a Woodard school bursary. He went to St Edmund Hall, Oxford. There he was largely unknown, but he was one of those who had fought in the First World War. Hayes Senior had served in

France with the Royal Flying Corps. The young Claude was to write vividly of life at Oxford at that time in *The Awakening World* — his contribution to a book of recollections by St Edmund Hall alumni.

In 1933 he took a first in modern languages, won a Heath Harrison scholarship which took him to Strasbourg for three months then, after two years' research back at Oxford, got a three-year Zaharoff fellowship to the Sorbonne. On his return he became a senior scholar at St Edmund Hall, while tutoring at the same time at New College in medieval French. (Research students in medieval French were still

calling to consult him until recently.) He then began his Civil Service career as assistant director of examinations for the Civil Service Commission before getting caught up in the Second World War.

Already a member of the Supplementary Reserve of Officers, Hayes sailed for France with the British Expeditionary Force in 1939 as a captain in the Royal Army Service Corps. Promoted to major, he was mentioned in dispatches at Dunkirk in the following year.

He later served in Combined Operations in the front line in North Africa, Sicily and Italy, before returning for the battle for North-West Europe. He ended the war as a lieutenant-colonel in charge of supply operations at the port of Antwerp.

Returning to the Civil Service Commission in 1945, he became deputy director of examinations, then the director — and a commissioner himself. Winning yet another travelling fellowship, this time one from the Nuffield Foundation, Hayes spent 1953-55 touring the Commonwealth with his wife, studying public service recruitment and management.

By now secretary of the Civil Service Commission, he moved to the Treasury as an assistant secretary in 1957, specialising in overseas expenditure at a time when Britain was dismantling the Empire, and in 1963-64 was adviser to R. A. Butler on the break-up of the Central African Federation and the Rhodesia issue. He was promoted to Under-Secretary at the Treasury in 1964, before moving to the Ministry of Overseas Development, his penultimate appointment.

There are those who feel that Hayes's personality contributed to his troubles at the Crown Agents. Austere and often acerbic, with little small talk, he was increasingly isolated from many of his subordinates — who grew wary of giving him bad news.

Away from his desk, however, Hayes was capable of great charm and at home was a close family man. Nearly thirty years ago he bought Prinkham, a dilapidated medieval hall near Chiddington Heath, Kent, and with his wife Joan — whom he had met while at the Sorbonne — spent the next few years restoring it to its original glory. A serious gardener, he recreated an Elizabethan garden.

His wife died in 1984 and he is survived by two sons and a daughter.

MARIA CASARES

Maria Casarès, actress, died on November 22 aged 74. She was born on November 21, 1922.

WITH the death of Maria Casarès, France has lost one of its last links to a golden age of both theatre and cinema. She worked alongside Gérard Philipe and Jean Vilar at the newly founded Avignon Festival; she formed an almost legendary couple with Albert Camus; she appeared in the films of Marcel Carné, Robert Bresson and Jean Cocteau; and in 1947 she even made a radio play with Antonin Artaud.

Yet to talk of her career in terms of a few highlights seems inappropriate. Hers was a life of passionate, almost religious commitment to the stage. Fearful of dissipating her talent, she eventually came to concentrate on theatrical work more or less to the exclusion of other forms of acting. But by then she had already established herself as one of the most powerful presences in French cinema, and it is probably for her films that she will be remembered outside France.

Maria-Victoria Casarès was born in La Coruña in Galicia. In the volume of memoirs she published in 1987, *Résidents privilégiés*, she described the people there as "mistrustful, reserved, cunning, Catholic and profoundly pagan". Her father, Santiago Casarès Quiroga, was a minister in the Republican Government engaged in the fight against Franco. In 1936 the family was forced to flee to Paris.

At the time, Maria-Victoria did not speak a word of French, but by 1939 she was applying to the Paris Conservatoire, and in 1942, a prize-winning graduate, she experienced her first triumph at the Théâtre des Mathurins in *Deirdre of the Sorrows*. The play was directed by Marcel Herrand, soon to play Lancelotti for her in *Les Enfants du Paradis* (1943).

On the strength of her performance, Albert Camus offered Maria the lead role in his play, *Le Malentendu*. This was the beginning of a great love. Camus was her "father, brother, friend, lover and sometimes son". Though the couple separated three years later, the bond of friendship

remained strong. Casarès played in Camus' *Etat de Siège* (1948) and *Les Justes* (1949), and they continued to see each other right up to his death in a car accident on January 4, 1960 (in fact, they had been planning to dine together the next day).

Though small and seemingly frail, Casarès was an extraordinarily forceful actress. An almost harsh, triangular face with big green eyes was offset by a rough voice which gave even her more subdued roles an air of welling passion, almost of menace.

In Robert Bresson's *Les Dames du Bois de Boulogne* (1945) and even *Les Enfants du Paradis*, she plays women who seem all the more dangerous for having been betrayed or neglected by their lovers. Sympathy for their situation is tinged with disquiet at their intentions. Jean Cocteau made the most of this stony beauty in his two films, *Orphée* (1950) and *Testament d'Orphée* (1960), in which he cast her, opposite Jean Marais, as a seductive personification of Death itself.

In 1952, Casarès joined the Comédie Française where she gave a famous performance in the title role of Charles Peguy's *Jeune d'Arc*. However, finding life there rather staid, she went to join Jean Vilar and Gérard Philipe in the Théâtre National Populaire, where she was to play most of the great tragic roles, from Medea to Phaedra. She came to London with the company in 1956.

In 1966 she performed in Roger Blin's production of Jean Genet's *Les Paravents*,

having met the author years before through Camus. The play was the target of bitter right-wing attacks — both verbal and physical — because of its satire of the French Army. But it was a triumph for Casarès. As Genet said by way of a compliment: "You love me a lot, don't you?"

Among the production's defenders was Patrice Chéreau, in whose 1983 revival of the play Casarès was also to star. Age did nothing to diminish her vigour, or her commitment to new work. Among the authors she premiered were Bernard-Marie Koltès (*Quai Ouest*) and Marco Antonio de la Parra (*Dostoïevski à la plage*). In 1990 she pulled off the feat of combining Madame Pernelle in *Tartuffe* with the part of the Pope in Genet's posthumous one-act satire *Elle*, rushing across to perform the shorter piece in the studio theatre while the middle section of the Molière was continuing in the main auditorium, and then hurrying back.

Such exploits held no fear for Casarès, but nor was she interested in them simply for their own sake. In 1993 she was outstanding in another male role, taking the lead in Bernard Sobel's production of *King Lear* in Conneville. It was with Sobel, and with the Argentine director Jorge Lavelli, that she did most of the work of her later years. Fittingly, the latter's *Théâtre de la Colline* has an auditorium named after this *grande dame* of the theatre, whose concern for grandeur was never focused on herself, but uniquely on the passions she was portraying.



Maria Casarès and Jean Marais in Cocteau's *Orphée*

PROFESSOR A. A. HARPER



Alfred Alexander Harper, former Professor of Physiology at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, died on November 17 aged 89. He was born on June 19, 1907.

PROFESSOR A. A. Harper best known for his outstanding contributions to our understanding of the digestive tract. At one time this was an unfashionable subject, and basic understanding of it was

poor. If that has since changed, it is largely thanks to the foundations of scientific knowledge laid down by Harper and the school which he led.

Alfred Alexander Harper was educated at Aberdeen Grammar School and Aberdeen University. Before taking up medicine, he had already obtained a first-class degree in Classics, and the benefits of that early training remained with him all his life. His scientific papers were always

written with a clarity that was the envy of his peers. He qualified in 1932. A lectureship in physiology at Leeds, 1936-37, was followed by a post as Demonstrator in physiology at St Thomas' Hospital, then, in 1939, by ten years in Manchester as lecturer and later Reader. In 1949 he was appointed to the chair of physiology in the medical school at Newcastle (attached until 1963 to the University of Durham). On his retirement as professor in 1972 he

continued his research work, collaborating closely with Dr A. Hood of the University of Sunderland.

Harper's principal interest was in the functioning of the pancreas and he became a founder member of the European Pancreatic Club and contributed regularly to its meetings and to those of its counterpart in the United States. His discoveries led him and H. T. Howar to devise a clinical test to assess the functional state of the pancreas and to put diagnostic criteria on a firm foundation.

After his move to Newcastle Harper built up a research group which rapidly gained international recognition in the field of neuro-humoral control of the digestive tract. His contribution to gastroenterology was recognised by his peers in his election as president of the British Society of Gastroenterology in 1971. He also held office in the Physiological Society and was its secretary from 1954 to 1960.

Not only did he make an impact on research but he also initiated a new era in teaching in Newcastle with the establishment of an Honours School (many of the graduates went on to hold chairs in medicine and physiology). Instrumental in the introduction of an integrated curriculum, he could also claim much of the credit for Newcastle's position in the vanguard of medical education.

He will be remembered by many of his colleagues and friends not only for his contributions to science and medicine but also for his expertise as a gourmet. As a host he had few equals, and his reputation in this as in other respects was recognised worldwide by visiting physiologists.

He remained unmarried.

LAWRENCE TINDALE

Lawrence Tindale, CBE, deputy chairman of the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, died on October 30 aged 75. He was born on April 24, 1921.

LARRY TINDALE was the architect of the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation (ICFC), the forerunner of the Investors in Industry (3i), where he was general manager from 1966 to 1972 and deputy chairman until 1991.

When Tindale joined the ICFC, it was an exclusively London-based financial institution, owned by the clearing banks and the Bank of England, specialising in long-term finance for small and medium-sized British companies.

Tindale took the institution to where its market was — outside London — establishing regional offices throughout England, Scotland and Wales. This restructuring brought directly in its train a huge increase in ICFC's business, and consequently its standing among government ministers and, equally importantly, their Whitehall advisers.

Tindale's style of management was unique. Leading by example, he showed an extraordinary capacity for work and attention to detail. He expected no less from his colleagues. Those who ran the new regional branches had much autonomy but could expect to be quizzed remorse-

lessly on their decisions by a general manager as fully acquainted with the details of each investment as they were.

Tindale was not an easy man: he lacked small talk, found social situations very awkward and could be both intimidating and abrupt, sometimes appearing as a result, discourteous. But he was, in reality, caring, thoughtful and generous, hiding all this behind an intensity of gaze and a brusqueness of manner.

Lawrence Victor Dolman Tindale was born in Co Durham, the son of a colliery weigh clerk. Educated at Laymer Upper School, Hamersmith, he was articled in the London office of McClelland Ker, a Scottish accountancy firm. But his progress towards becoming a chartered accountant was interrupted by the war. He was commissioned in the Royal Armoured Corps after being called up in 1941. He was posted to the King's African Rifles and served in Kenya and Burma.

After qualifying in 1946, becoming a partner of McClelland Ker in 1951, he was invited to become assistant general manager of ICFC in 1959 — the first external appointment, at a senior level, made by that body.

In those days, particularly under the chairmanship of Lord Piercy, the change of management style which Tindale introduced was revolutionary. He was essentially

an informal manager with a notoriously low threshold of boredom, and his approach ran directly counter to the stiff-collared style of the founding management.

But under Lord Sherfield, Piercy's successor, Tindale flourished. He built up the ICFC most successfully and it was no surprise when in 1972 he was seconded to the Department of Trade and Industry to become the DTI's director of industrial development.

He returned to the newly-named Finance for Industry in 1974, remaining its deputy chairman until 1991, by which time its name had changed twice again. During his career he was a director of more than a hundred companies, including Northern Engineering Industries and the British National Oil Corporation (subsequently Britoil). He was also chairman of the council of the British Institute of Management, and a vice-chairman of the Consumers' Association. He was appointed CBE in 1971.

Tindale had a deep love of opera — attending every Glyndebourne season since 1946 and being a regular attendant at new opera productions in London. He was also a devout Christian Scientist, whose faith sustained him during the long illnesses of his wife Betty, whom he married in 1946, and of their daughter, each of whom predeceased him.

He is survived by their son.

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Tax cuts will decrease income

Pat Blair introduces a two-page report on fundraising for charitable organisations

Charities that can diversify across the broadest possible range of fundraising, marketing, trading and public relations activities are the ones that are most likely to be, and remain, successful.

So says Stephen Lee, director of the Institute of Charity Fund Raising Managers, whose members — more than 2,500 individuals covering 1,250 organisations — are specialists in the field. "It would not be appropriate," he says, "to blame the demise of some charitable bodies on the major national charities' increased voluntary income, the impact of the National Lottery or the current economic climate. In any year there are winners and losers."

For more than two years, the Institute has been tracking, quarterly, the fundraising performance of 70 charities — large and medium sized — with a combined annual income from donations of £750 million out of an estimated total income of £3 billion to £5 billion.

"Those organisations have shown a real increase in income, across the board,

from nearly every different type of activity, save public collecting which has remained static," Mr Lee says. "The financial climate has been improving for some time. There is no evidence as far as we can see that there is a direct loss as a result of the lottery."

One effect of last week's Budget, however, will lose voluntary bodies money, through a reduction in the amount of tax reclaimed under planned-giving schemes. The National Council of Voluntary Organisations suggests that the one penny off the basic rate of income tax will cost charities £13.8 million a year.

Increasingly, charities are becoming more professional in their approach. At the same time they are returning to their roots, forging closer links with the community in which they work, a move that is reciprocated by business.

Far from the issue of voluntary income is the impact that the removal of statutory support, from both central and local government, has had. According to Mr Lee, it has gradually declined over the past 15 years, particularly in



Shopping at the Barnardo's shop in Brixton, south London

core support for a whole movement of activities that were founded and then sustained through statutory support. "The notion that fund-

raising of voluntary income can somehow make up the difference is misplaced. It never was an option and never should have been promoted as such," he says.

Reduced budgets, expenditure cuts and the effects of local council reorganisation have all struck the voluntary sector. Since local government reorganisation in Scotland in April, "we estimate that close to 1,000 jobs have been lost in the voluntary sector and about

16,000 people have lost access to services," says Martin Sims, director of the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. About £10 million, 8 per cent of council funding has been cut from voluntary groups. Small charities are among the worst hit. "The £500 discretionary grant is most affected, and that affects grassroots organisations."

Since central government grants form the greater part of

council spending, Mr Sims says, the effects of the Budget suggest that when councils set their budgets in January, "we're all expecting bad news, again."

But at the end of the day, the service any charity gives is dependent on its ability to raise funds — and on its optimism. As Mr Sims says: "We just hope that there are better times around the corner."

How to donate with the help of the taxman

Revenue rules can make giving remarkably easy on the pocket

People who donate to charitable organisations often surrender money to the Inland Revenue that could, at no extra cost to the individual, benefit registered charities, Pat Blair writes.

Most of the money that people contribute is not given tax-efficiently. While charities could claim back the equivalent of the basic rate of income tax — 24 per cent now, 23 per cent from next April — only about 10 per cent of donations are organised to allow them to do so.

To take advantage of tax breaks, recipient charities must, however, either be registered with the Charity Commission or be recognised as charitable bodies by the Inland Revenue.

There are three main ways for individuals to give away money tax-effectively: deed of covenant; gift aid; and payroll deduction. The first two operate on taxed income, the third operates on earned income before tax is paid.

The deed of covenant, the oldest method, is a contractual agreement to pay, for at least four years, an annual donation to a particular charity. The charity can reclaim the basic rate of tax already paid by the donor; higher-rate taxpayers can also claim back the marginal rate for themselves from the Inland Revenue. There is no minimum or maximum amount, although, says Vicky Pulman of the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF), "some charities impose a minimum to cover their costs."

Gift aid is a single one-off donation. The minimum payment is £250 in a year and there is no maximum. Again, the charity can reclaim basic-rate tax, while higher-rate taxpayers can reclaim the marginal rates. This can also be done through a charity account opened by an individual or company. A chequebook and/or a charity debit card

is issued and the donor can distribute the money as he or she wishes.

Payroll deduction is the only one of the three schemes to operate on pre-tax income. Donations are made direct from salary at source, before tax, thus also reducing the donor's tax liability. Donations can also be made from pensions that are taxed under PAYE.

Among a number of payroll deduction schemes, the best known is probably Give As You Earn, operated by CAF. But they also include the Charities Trust, and Sharing the Caring; the latter was bought earlier this year by Help the Aged, which is currently negotiating with other charities jointly to run the scheme.

Payroll giving operates through employers, who deduct the agreed amount from the employee's salary and forward it to the operator of the scheme with whom they are contracted. The scheme's operator will then distribute the money to the selected charities.

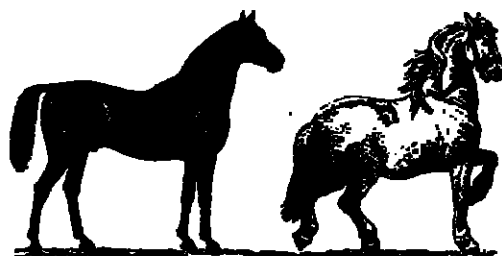
The choice of charity is flexible, says Miss Pulman. Money can be distributed as agreed by, say, staff representatives. "Another alternative is that each individual can choose the charities — up to eight through Give As You Earn — they wish to support," she says.

Companies can also take advantage of tax-efficient schemes. There is the CAF Company Account: a payment, representing the company's charitable budget net of tax, is paid into the account and CAF reclaims the basic rate of tax paid by the company, crediting it to the account. The company may then set the gross amount in the account (payment plus reclaimed tax) against profits, thus reducing its corporation tax.

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The old question: what exactly is a charity?

Rodney Hobson on the changes facing the voluntary sector

It has taken 400 years, so no one is rushing to make major changes to the legal framework surrounding charities. But Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, and those involved in charities have acknowledged that the time has come to reconsider just what is a charity.

An independent commission on the future of the voluntary sector chaired by Professor Nicholas Deakin concluded that the legal definition of what constitutes a charity should be redefined in modern terms.

Laws governing charities date back to 1601, but changes will not be easy. One difficulty will be distinguishing between charities and non-profit-making organisations such as clubs, schools and arts organisations.

Also at issue is tax relief. Some big charities earn an increasing proportion of their income by providing welfare services under businesslike contracts with local and health authorities.

While charity umbrella organisations would welcome any clarification of the position, they are reluctant to campaign openly for a change in the legal definition of charities for fear that some of their own members could be excluded. They also feel that changes might make the position more complex rather than clearer. At present, at least they know where they stand.

The Deakin report recommended that there should be extensive public debate leading to a redefinition of the term "charity", based on the concept of public benefit. It also proposed a voluntary sector Law Commission to keep aspects of voluntary sector law under review and an independent Charity Appeal Tribunal with powers to review decisions of the Charity Commission on the registration of charities.

Announcing the Government's response to the Deakin report, Mrs Bottomley took a sympathetic line towards charities when she addressed the Charity Directors' Network last month: "It is impossible to over-emphasise the importance of the voluntary sector in this country. There are over half a million voluntary organisations in the UK with an income of some £15 billion. Over half the adult population take part in voluntary activity each year, making a vital contribution to their communities."

The Deakin report proposed a "concordat" between Government and voluntary organisations. Mrs Bottomley replied: "I support the aim of encouraging good practice and better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of Government and voluntary organisations. However, the term 'concordat' seems to imply a more rigid relationship than is appropriate, given the diverse and dynamic nature of voluntary organisations."

The Charity Commission is to carry out a review of the

to promoting public discussion of the scope of charity under existing law. The Government believes that process should be completed before it decides whether more fundamental reform is needed."

She said the Law Commission would not be involved in the issue. She also expressed doubts whether a Charity Appeal Tribunal would help to clarify the law unless there was also a major revision of the procedures of the courts.

existing register of charities as it transfers its records onto computer. Mrs Bottomley said: "The commission has a substantial task in front of it, particularly as it is committed

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Rodney Hobson discovers how charities are organising themselves to ensure a tighter hold on purse strings and greater efficiency

Watching the pennies and saving pounds

Charities are flexing their financial muscles. Not only are those who hold the purse strings aiming for greater efficiency but they are also extracting better terms from suppliers and the banks.

Stephen Burgess at Help the Aged explains: "When I came into the sector I thought charity finance would be like commercial finance but there was a lot more involved."

Unlike in the private sector, and even to some extent the public sector, you do not have customers demanding service and shareholders demanding returns on equity. Yet the public rightly demands that the money is well spent and the organisation is run efficiently."

Mr Burgess is chairman of the Charities Finance Directors Group. It was set up eight years ago by a handful of finance directors in major charities who got together one weekend to discuss a number of common issues. They found they could usefully

compare notes on financial control and management and work together to do a better job.

The group now has more than 600 members from over 500 charities. Mr Burgess says: "We are in the business of improving excellence in the financial management of charities. There are two parts: making sure the standards and guidelines of good financial management are in place and helping to make sure the individuals who apply those standards are properly trained and educated."

We work very closely with the Charity Commission, the Accounting Standards Board and the profession in the widest sense, and interpret standards in the appropriate way."

The group holds monthly meetings at the Institute of Chartered

Accountants' headquarters in Moorgate, London, where the focus is on educational issues. It has a number of sub groups using the expertise of members on specific topics and has help lines to give members free advice on matters such as VAT, tax, accounting standards and investment.

Mr Burgess says: "Consistent with that, we have a role in promoting and advocating the importance of these issues so trustees and executives of charities understand the importance of recruiting the right sort of people."

The group has members from almost all the 100 biggest charities and from 50 per cent of the main grant-making charities. Although its members tend not to be from

the tiniest charities it does attract people responsible for organisations with turnovers of as little as £100,000 a year.

The scope for growth is considerable. Mr Burgess says: "We

grown by about 10 per cent each year and Mr Burgess expects this rate to accelerate as the group markets itself more aggressively."

He says that the benefits of the group are not confined to the 600 members. "The work that we do benefits the charity sector in the widest sense of the word. The work we do with bodies such as the Charity Commission and the Government benefits all charities. For example, we do a lot of work on reserves

Charities have general reserves that support the long term well-being of the organisation and restricted funds that are effectively earmarked either by the donor or trustees for specific causes or recipients."

Just over two years ago Mr Burgess decided to go one step further and form the Charities Consortium, which was specifically targeted at helping charities to work together to get better commercial deals.

He says: "I am in my fourth year in the charities sector after a career in the commercial world. I found charities just weren't getting the proper leverage with suppliers. Even larger charities were not getting the level of discount and quality of service with suppliers and banks that I expected in the commercial world. Now the consortium has more than 20 members in the top 30 charities, all household names. We voluntarily compare notes on costs of supplies and on bank charges."

He says Help the Aged has

halved its bank charges in the past two to three years, primarily because of competition between banks. Other charities have done the same.

He says: "Longer term, we hope to provide information and benefits to smaller charities as well. The nature of the organisation is such that most of the benefits to be enjoyed are for larger charities working together but we might be able to make those same benefits available to smaller charities."

He points out that banks have been quite open in stating that they treat charities on a par with commercial organisations for business. The consortium is trying to regulate charges in the same way that commercial organisations might.

One example of this was inviting banks to tender for business. Some charity finance directors discovered that their own bank was prepared to offer concessions that the charity was not aware of.

“We voluntarily compare notes on costs of supplies and on bank charges”

estimate that something like 5,000 charities have a professional manager, although the figure may not necessarily be full-time."

Membership of the group has increased by more than 70 this year. So far membership has

Get set for deregulation

Rodney Hobson on the new rules governing what fund managers can invest in

Charities are facing their biggest shake-up since the 1961 Trustee Investments Act gave them greater freedom to invest their funds.

Decisions are expected early next year on two discussion papers put forward by the Government. The first, issued in early summer, proposed scrapping the 1961 Act and with it the rule that a proportion of charity funds must be invested in "narrow range" investments — those such as gilts that are considered ultra-safe but produce an income.

Last month the Government also proposed, in consultation with the Charity Commission, to alter the regulation covering common investment funds, where smaller charities band together to cut costs and spread their portfolios.

The proposal is to structure



A benefactress in 1879. Today, legacies still bring the top charities one third of their income

the common pools like authorised unit trusts, with a corporate trustee. The exemption from the Financial Services Act could also be removed.

Although it is now seen as restrictive, the 1961 Act in fact gave charity finance directors greater flexibility. It laid down that only 50 per cent of investments had to be in gilts

or equivalent safe investments. That figure was cut to 25 per cent in 1994.

The regulations were designed to ensure that donations were not wiped out by

charities tempted to invest in high-yield but highly risky investments. During the past 35 years there has, however, been an increasing realisation that "safe" investments do not necessarily provide the best long-term returns. Shares, as the stock exchange reminds us, can go down as well as up. But over time they generally provide better returns — in the form of dividends and share price increases — than bank and building society deposits.

As Sarah Hamilton, charities marketing manager at Flemings, says: "Trustees can be just as prudent in investment as in other areas in their remit. They are obliged to act with the best interests of the charity at heart — so why not extend that to investment as well? A lot of charities depend on the income from their investments."

Even so, the Government's proposal to scrap the Act surprised many in the field of charities finance. It suggested that trustees should be given the power to invest the charity's money as if they were investing in their own right.

Ms Hamilton says: "The Government does want to retain protective measures. We agree that protection must not be diminished."

Investment advisers might be expected to favour forcing trustees to seek advice — but in fact they agree this may be undesirable and unenforceable. They believe trustees will be inclined to seek advice anyway.

The discussion paper implied that if the 1961 Act is repealed, trustees will be required to exercise a reasonable degree of responsibility but not to seek advice on most investments.

"It might be unreasonable for smaller charities to pay for advice," says Ms Hamilton. "Often there is someone close to the charity whom they could consult."

The Government looks certain to make changes, provided there is still time with a general election looming. Some charities have already

“Trustees should always act in the charity's best interest”

got around the rules by gaining exemption from the Charity Commission or from their own governing body.

To get round the 1961 Act, many newer charities have been established with governing documents drawn up in such a way as to give them wider powers. The Government is expected to bring all charities into line.

Charities switching to new investments may have to consider the implications of "ethical investments". If, for instance, a charity devoted to helping cancer victims chose not to invest in tobacco companies, this would be lawful even if tobacco was an attractive investment in financial terms. However, a charity could not avoid tobacco companies simply because it was run by a non-smoker. It would be expected to choose its investments on financial grounds only, avoiding tobacco companies only if it felt they represented a poor risk.

"What trustees should always do is to act in the best financial interests of the charity," says Ms Hamilton. "What clouds the issue is that some trustees may have strong personal views. That is not a justification for making or avoiding certain investments."

"Ethically responsible companies will probably do well in the future because they are already complying with the higher standards that are being enforced by law. They will not get caught out by legislation."

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me leave

Mr Justice Buckley, sitting with Master Rogers and Mr C. B. E. Jacques as assessors, so held in the Queen's Bench Division when he gave his judgment in *Attorney-General v. British Telecommunications plc*. The Secretary of State for Wales and Val of Glamorgan Borough Council, to the extent of substituting a £100 hourly rate for one of £75, against the decision of Master Seager in *Attorney-General v. British Telecommunications plc* on 22, 1996 to uphold the hourly rate of £75, to be calculated largely by reference to the local average and nothing his Lordship

FOR ORDERS PLEASE TELEPHONE (01525) 851945 (24 HOURS)

(continued)

1

Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental design. The subjects were divided into two groups: the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). The CG was subjected to a 10-week training program, while the EG was subjected to a 10-week training program followed by a 10-week detraining period. The subjects were then divided into two subgroups: the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). The CG was subjected to a 10-week training program, while the EG was subjected to a 10-week training program followed by a 10-week detraining period. The subjects were then divided into two subgroups: the control group (CG) and the experimental group (EG). The CG was subjected to a 10-week training program, while the EG was subjected to a 10-week training program followed by a 10-week detraining period.

^a Values are means ± SD.


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1945 (24 HOURS)

McGovern enjoys cracking good month of November



THE end of November brings two sets of winners in *The Times Interactive Team Football* game. Mr M. McGovern, of Liverpool, wins £1,000 for the monthly prize, scoring 82 points over November with his team March Pass. The weekly prize of £250 has been won by Mr R.A. Tiri, of London, who scored 35 points last week with his team Inter Anna.

In the overall competition, John Hunt remains in front, eight points clear of the chasing pack. Mr Hunt now boasts six of his Taunton teams in the leading 25 selectors; the challenge, as he readily admits, is keeping them there. He had better beware: one of the Gohls, pipped at the post last year, is lurking in fifth position.

Mr Tiri's team is:

Goalkeeper
A Goram (Rangers)

Full backs
P Atherton (Sheffield Wed)
S Staunton (Aston Villa)

Central defenders
D Matteo (Liverpool)
R Scimeca (Aston Villa)

Midfield players
N Ardley (Wimbledon)
N Butt (Manchester Utd)
S Donnelly (Celtic)
B Laudrup (Rangers)

Strikers
P van Hooijdonk (Celtic)
I Rush (Leeds Utd)

Manager
J Kinnear (Wimbledon)



Two goals on Saturday for Bridges, of Sunderland, could lead to an extended run and a good haul of ITF points



If your team could be doing better, you can move into the transfer market to improve your fortunes. You can use the ITF transfer system which

allows you to change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 884 643 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

□ All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996-7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, EFL Cup, Scottish League premier division and Tarradale Scottish Cup from August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED			
Goalkeeper		Striker	
Keeps clean sheet*	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	3pts	All players	
Saves penalty	1pt	Appearance†	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Scores hat-trick	6pts
Keeps clean sheet*	3pts	Manager	
Scores goal	3pts	Team wins	3pts
Midfield player		Team draws	1pt
Keeps clean sheet*	1pt		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED			
Goalkeeper		Booked	1pt
Concedes goal	2pts	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender		Misses penalty	1pt
Concedes goal	1pt	Saves own goal	1pt
All players		Manager	
Set off	3pts	Team loses	1pt
* must have played for			

* Must have played for 75 minutes in the match
1 must have played for 45 minutes in the match



HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER IN ITF

Call 0891 884 643
If you are outside the UK, call 0044 990 200 668.

You may make transfers only by telephone using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone). Call the 0891 884 643 line during the times given. From outside the UK, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

You may only make transfers in one team per telephone call. If you have entered two teams and want to make transfers in both, you must make two separate calls.

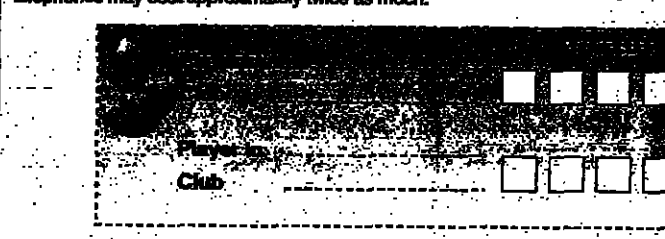
You may transfer two (but no more than two) individuals (two players or one player and a manager) during a transfer week. A player being transferred out must be replaced by one from the same category and you must keep to the team format of a goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players, two strikers and a manager. You must not exceed the £25 million budget and have no more than two individuals from the same club. Incorrect transfers will be rejected and your team will remain in its previous form.

The transfer week runs from 00.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before noon each day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after noon will become effective for matches played after noon on the following day.

Your new player only starts to score points for you when his transfer is registered. The current score of the player transferred out remains part of your team score but he then ceases to score for you.

If a player or manager moves teams during the season, it may affect the composition of your team. You must adjust your team by using the transfer system to avoid missing out on points.

Calls will be charged at 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at other times. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

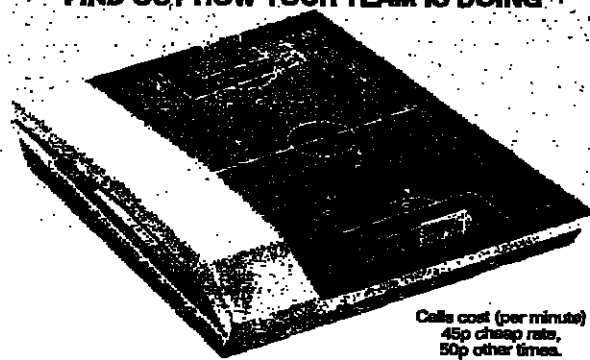


THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS			
OUT			
20803...	Jason Kerrigan	Derby County	00.25m
32804...	Jason Cundy	Tottenham Hotspur	00.50m
42802...	Nail Hanny	Southampton	01.00m
52804...	Frankie Bennett	Southampton	00.25m
LOANED PLAYERS			
D Wessell (Derby to Manchester City, two weeks); T Wright (Nottingham Forest to Reading, one week); R van der Laan (Derby to Wolverhampton, two weeks); R Ford (West Ham to Burnham, one week); J Swales (Sheffield Wednesday to Bolton, two weeks); G Peacock (Chelsea to Queens Park Rangers, three weeks); M Stan (Chelsea to Stoke, three weeks); D Kerslake (Tottenham to Swindon, three weeks); T Cooke (Manchester United to Birmingham, four weeks); P Tisdale (Southampton to Huddersfield, four weeks). Loan periods subject to fluctuation.			

THE LEADING SELECTORS

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	John Hunt Taunton D	(J Hunt)	291
2	Sophie And Sam	(G Foster)	283
3	John Hunt Taunton H	(J Hunt)	279
4	John Hunt Taunton F	(J Hunt)	275
5	Purple Rain	(S Gohls)	272
6	John Hunt Taunton E	(M Jones)	270
7	James Boys Three	(K Booth)	268
8	Scholes For Goals	(P Mills)	267
9	Storm	(A Burton)	267
10	Skyforest	(A Lorne)	266
11	Gargaters	(J Stachowicz)	264
12	Orlando Classic	(V Cow)	263
13	PJ Thistle	(R Newbould)	261
14	A2	(K Farhall)	261
15	James Boys 8	(M Jones)	260
16	Mean Machine	(P Ford)	260
17	NSF Monstons	(J Stachowicz)	260
18	Daggers	(V Cow)	260
19	Rigby's Rovers	(A Rigby)	259
20	Noah's Ark	(G P Dolan)	258
21	Nobby 33	(J Brown)	258
22	Beak's Team	(B Howes)	257
23	John Hunt Taunton C	(J Hunt)	257
24	Inter The Stand	(M Ward)	257
25	Tully's Tops	(D Tully)	256
26	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohls)	256
27	Raj Is Back To Kill	(J Hunt)	256
28	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohls)	256
29	Team C	(A Lorne)	254
30	Nobby 4	(J Brown)	254
31	Raj Is Back To Kill	(J Gohls)	254
32	Hull Red Devils	(G Foster)	251
33	AB 4	(A Boyland)	249
34	La Bouffesters	(J Brown)	248
35	Nobby 5	(J Brown)	247
36	Inter The Pub	(M Ward)	247
37	It's About Revenge C	(R Gohls)	247
38	Beasties Celtic	(S McGovern)	247
39	Nobby	(J Brown)	247
40	The Dansters	(C C Ververs)	247
41	Bubwith Utd 5	(M Larcombe)	246
42	A	(M Corless)	246
43	Dour Rangers 3	(I Clayton)	246
44	Radnapp's Rovers	(S Emson)	246
45	Rodine Raiders	(M Handley)	245
46	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohls)	244
47	Claremont Loyal	(B Fox)	244
48	Bob's Boys 2	(R Calder)	244
49	ABC	(M Baker)	244
50	Leeds's Legmen	(A Richards)	244
51	Polly's Pride	(P Smylie)	244
52	JS August Monthly 1	(J Swirles)	244
53	Team A	(A Lorne)	243
54	God's Allrounders 2	(S A Goddroy)	243
55	Set Against Cys	(S Shipley)	242
56	Pin Up Two	(P Tustler)	241
57	Aldeburgh Villa	(M Jones)	241
58	Bob's Boys XI	(A Richards)	241
59	Inter The Waller	(M Ward)	241
60	Hove Rovers 3	(N Goddard)	240
61	Xpat Missiles	(M Jackson)	240
62	FC Pinta	(J Mullock)	239
63	Bad Three Boys	(R Crook)	239
64	JS August Monthly 2	(J Swirles)	239
65	Art's Allstars	(G Wiles)	239
66	Breidbrows United	(G Wiles)	239
67	Mars FC	(M Baker)	239
68	Kingsbury Tn 1	(D F King)	239
69	Lynston's Lions 7	(R Layton)	238
70	Nomads	(N Brown)	238

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Call the ITF hotline on 0891 884 643
Outside UK 0044 990 200 668

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
71	Bubwith Utd 3	(M Larcombe)	238
72	Raj Is Back To Kill	(R Gohls)	238
73	Dur Con 3	(M Pack)	238
74	Clive From Down Under	(K James)	238
75	Bow Utd	(K J Burns)	238
76	Nobby 11	(J Brown)	238
77	Nunchalant AFC 3	(R J Ward)	237
78	T 35	(T Besaran)	237
79	Alrdr	(M Corless)	237
80	The Tomsters	(I Fyfe)	237
81	The Red Devils	(K Booth)	236
82	1970 Jr FC	(J Ross)	236
83	Gestalt	(R Cooke)	236
84	12 Angry Men	(R Braucher)	236
85	Shrew Wolves	(M Jones)	236
86	March Pass	(M McGovern)	235
87	Tat Elf	(K J Burns)	235
88	Sky Rockets	(M L Jones)	235
89	James Boys One	(P Ryan)	234
90	Porcelain Gods	(D S Mills)	234
91	Janey's Skates	(Z Ahmed)	234
92	Ziggy's Boys	(L McCutough)	234
93	Sky Times III	(S Mingle)	234
94	Concrete Bananas	(J Brown)	234
95	Nobby 20	(S Berchfield)	233
96	Rugalsie	(S Watson)	233
97	Clan Ruffies	(R Crook)	233
98	Bonky Boys	(P Handley)	233
99	Pamela Anderson	(B Wells)	233
100	Idarits	(N Easright)	233
101	Clove Vale	(W E Parker)	233
102	The Passion	(N He)	233
103	Evergreen On Jodis F	(D Ritchie)	233
104	Abdul's Revenge	(D Ritchie)	233
105	Lynne's Lions	(T Leonard)	233
106	Pacific All Star	(K Kar)	233
107	Hart Kart XI	(D McLean)	233
108	Warped XI	(S Mullaney)	232
109	Northwood XI	(B Gohls)	232
110	China Castle	(B Gohls)	232

THE LEADING SELECTORS

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
111	Jan 2	(J Clayton)	232
112	The Big Men	(K Booth)	232
113	Inter The Sin	(M Ward)	232
114	Toto Calcio	(A Dey)	232
115	Edmo Utd	(D Edmondson)	232
116	Dynamo Hills	(S Miller)	232
117	Nobby 22	(J Brown)	232
118	Alban Harris XI	(A Hynes)	231
119	Bayard Fault	(P Foster)	231
120	G Mooney FC	(G Samuels)	231
121	Acce's High	(N Avery)	231
122	Real Ale Ripon	(C Blackshaw)	231
123	Thorn Footers FC	(M Horan)	231
124	Wherry's Reg Gons?	(J McCallion)	231
125	Antares	(L Clark)	231
126	Nobby 21	(J Brown)	231
127	Wether's Wanderers	(D Wetherall)	231
128	PT's Top Team	(T Tidmarsh)	230
129	Irwin's Best	(L Sampson)	230
130	Black's Magicians II	(M Kingston)	230
131	Fardon United	(E Cowen)	230
132	Motley Team	(K McGuire)	230
133	Flying Foreigners	(D Thomas)	230
134	The Bobby Eggs	(I Goodman)	230
135	Red Star Belgians	(R Newman)	230
136	Athletic Storm	(P Mills)	229
137	The Miracles	(D Booth)	229
138	Fortuna Sandwich	(A J Rakel)	229
139	Alice	(I Pigeon)	229
140	4 4 2	(K Browne)	229
141	No Middlefield	(T Easright)	229
142	Trouble Shooters	(R Pitt)	229
143	Jane's Giants	(J Longton)	229
144	Plastic Pipers 10	(T Feenly)	229
145	Granny's Gringos	(G F Peasey)	229
146	Turner's Earnings 2	(M McCallion)	229
147	Turkey United	(O Ashe)	229
148	Turner's Earnings 3	(P Turner)	229
149	AS	(K Farhall)	229
150	Dear Old Things	(J Saunders)	228
151	Central Athletic	(N Slippin)	228
152	AC Fantasy FC	(M Slippin)	228
153	Das Boot	(D A Sutton)	228
154	Im's B Team	(W Donaldson)	228
155	Jason's Boys Four	(J Gearing)	228
156	ST Utd	(M O'Brien)	227
157	No Middlefield	(G F Peasey)	227
158	AC Cambridge	(L Hoe)	227
159	Guardiel FC	(C J Eldred)	227
160	Berry's Team	(S Matthews)	227
161	Botat United 1	(J Pull)	227
162	Turner's Earnings 5	(P Turner)	227
163	Nobby 7	(J Brown)	227
164	Nobby 34	(A Misk)	227
165	Gems	(C Turner)	226
166	Turner's Tigers	(C Scarle)	226
167	Chalm City 89	(K Booth)	226
168	The Great Dane	(P Bailey)	226
169	Olivia United	(P Follen)	226
170	Jodis	(R Turner)	226
171	Hopetide Hotshots	(J Palmer)	226
172	Priority Rangers	(R Gohls)	226
173	Raj Is Back To Kill	(F K Taylor)	226
174	Arrogant FC	(M A Kennedy)	226
175	Three Tabletoppers	(P Swaley)	226
176	Octopus-TF Champ	(M Slippin)	226
177	Kinky Imports	(S Fraser)	226
178	Don Revie Obe	(S Murray)	226

THE LEADING SELECTORS

180	Bob's Boys 4	(R Calder)	226
180	E	(M Corless)	226
180	John Hunt Taunton A	(J Hunt)	226
180	Nobby J	(J Brown)	226
180	Eric's Allstars	(E Routledge)	226
180	Over The Moon FC	(I Roscall)	226
180	Statham Town	(M Akkies)	226
180	Over The Moon FC	(I Roscall)	226
180	Former Champions	(A Muthusini)	226
180	Henry's Coward	(S Hodgson)	226
180	Interconnect	(L A Tomlinson)	226
180	Blue Brazil	(D Nichols)	226
180	FC Big Hands	(A Martin)	226
180	Bumbles XI	(S Jones)	226
180	Alido Is Great	(J Holley)	226
180	Sporty Big Bone	(J Stachowicz)	226
180	U Vont Us	(T Stachowicz)	226
180	La Bouff And 2 Veg	(M Sawley)	226
180	Totted Five	(E Kaby)	226
180	Alc	(M Baker)	226
180	Nobby 32	(J Brown)	226
180	Gardie's Gargaters	(I Douglas)	226
180	Splice 024	(P Dooch)	226
180	CJ United	(P Sutton)	226
204	Born Losers	(P Furlong)	226
204	PUB Rovers	(P Butler)	226
204	Camorra's Hotshots	(D Cannon)	226
204	Shackly	(C O'Shea)	226
204	West From The Best	(C Jones)	226
204	Glens Win World Cup	(P Garry)	226
204	Zig Zag Zak 25	(J Zai)	226
204	Shady Scores	(J Stevenson)	226
204	Anorak Adick	(N Whitham)	226
204	Sheep Shearers	(T E Upson)	226
204	Johnny's Giants	(J Jones)	226
204	Wo's Wonders	(J Watts)	226
204	BCFC 1998	(J Birrell)	226
204	Miffie	(R Loojey)	226
204	Jonas Boys Sky	(M Jones)	226
204	Midfield Magic	(J Pregon)	226
204	SJ2	(J W Goody)	226
204	Nobby 14	(J Brown)	226
224	Dave's First X	(D Oulbott)	226
224	Devon Demons	(D G Flory)	226
224	HOG Is Out Of Order	(N Whareedy)	226
224	Bristol Rovers Res	(G Con)	226
224	Red Watchers	(J Murray)	226
224	Ginger	(T Cowell)	226
224	Seraphites	(G Bower)	226
224	—	(Z Whinnett)	226
224	12 Sick Parrots	(T Mayor)	226
224	Jesbitt FC	(J A Henning)	226
224	Pear-Shaped FC	(R M Sains)	226
224	Sun Can Be Talking	(R Leszkowski)	226
224	VPR1 Cowasow	(M A Wilkott)	226
224	Jedder	(W Clackin)	226
224	Near We Are Two	(J McGroun)	226
224	Wallard United	(J Tisdale)	226
224	Enid Four	(J Feather)	226
224	Justintone	(A Kerr)	226
224	Penlan	(S Larkin)	226
224	Parize Voux	(A Weir)	226
224	Rid Is Back To Kill	(R Gough)	226
224	Crossed End Rovers	(M Mitchell)	226
224	Rainbow Warriors	(S West)	226
224	Gulft United	(S Gledwood)	226
224	Spennetate	(M Connolly)	226
224	Langeller Lads	(N Finch)	226

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.50	-5	+1
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	-4	+27
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	0.75	0	0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	-1	-10
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	+1
10401	T Flowers	Aston Villa	1.00	+5	+9
10402	S Given	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-4	-18
10501	G Marshall	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0
10601	D Kharine	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	-1
10602	K Hiltchcock	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+10	+10
10701	S Ogrizovic	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	-20
10702	M Tait	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-3	-18
10801	R Taylor	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
10802	R Hout	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-1	-7
10901	A Maczwell	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+4
10902	L Key	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-1	-10
11001	I Westwater	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-1	-10
11101	N Southall	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-5	-6
11102	P Gerrard	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+1
11201	G Rousset	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-3	-9
11301	J Leighton	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	+5	+4
11401	D Lekovic	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-25	-25
11501	M Beesley	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	0
11502	P Evans	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	0	0
11601	N Martyn	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+5	-1
11602	A Poole	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	-6
11603	K Keller	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-5	-10
11701	D James	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	0	+8
11702	A Warner	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
11801	P Schmeichel	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	-1	-12
11802	R van der Gouw	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5
11901	G Wright	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-1	-7
11902	A Miller	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-3	-20
12001	S Howie	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-3	-20
12101	S Hlop	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	-3
12102	P Smieck	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-3	0
12201	M Crossley	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-4	-28
12202	A Fottis	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
12203	S Wright	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
12301	S Thomson	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	+5	-19
12401	A Goram	Blackburn Rovers	5.00	+5	+24
12501	K Pressman	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+5	0
12601	D Seasant	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-10	-10
12602	N Moss	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	0	+2
12603	C Woods	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-3	-19
12701	L Perez	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
12702	A Cotton	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+9
12801	I Walker	Blackburn Rovers	3.50	0	+15
12901	L Midosko	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	+5	-10
12902	S Mautone	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+5
13001	N Sullivan	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+5	+8
13002	P Head	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	0

20101	S McKimmie	Aberdeen	2.00	-2	+10
20201	L Dixon	Arsenal	3.00	+2	+21
20202	N Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00	0	+18
20203	S Morrow	Arsenal	1.00	0	+4
20301	S Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+17
20302	A Wright	Aston Villa	3.00	+3	+20
20303	G Charles	Aston Villa	2.50	0	0
20304	P King	Aston Villa	0.25	0	0
20305	F Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+16
20401	H Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-3
20402	G Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-2
20403	J Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-2	-4
20404	G Croft	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+2
20501	J McNamara	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-7
20502	T McKelvey	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-7
20503	T Petherson	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	-1	-7
20601	S Clarke	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-1	-2
20602	T Phelan	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0
20603	S Minto	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-1	-4
20701	D Burrows	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	-7
20702	B Burrows	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-4	-4
20703	M Hall	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-4	-4
20704	R Sena	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	-2
20801	C Powell	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5
20802	D Yates	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+2
20803	J Kavanagh	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	0	0
20804	P Parker	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+4
20901	M Malpas	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+8
20902	M Perry	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-1	-2
20903	N Duffy	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+3
21001	C Miller	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	0	-6
21002	T O'Neil	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	0	-6
21101	M Hottiger	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
21102	A Hinchcliffe	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-1	-10
21103	E Barrett	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-2	-9
21104	M Jackson	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	0
21201	G Locke	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0
21202	N Pointon	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-3	-4
21203	S Wilson	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+4	+9
21204	A Dow	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+4	+16
21301	G MacPherson	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	-13
21302	G Kelly	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	+3	+10
21401	A Dorog	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-1
21402	P Beasley	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	+3	+6
21501	M Whitlow	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+6
21502	P Grayson	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	+4
21601	N Lewis	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-2	-2
21602	F Rolling	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	0	0
21701	R Jones	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	0
21702	S Harkness	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	0
21703	S Bjornelys	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+18
21704	P Chernock	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
21801	D Innes	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0	+13
21802	G Neville	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+9
21803	P Neville	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	0
21901	N Cox	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-2	-10
21902	C Morris	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	0	0
21903	C Fleming	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	-1	-1
21904	S Blackmore	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
22001	S McMillan	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-1	-1
22101	W Barton	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	-1
22102	S Watson	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0	+10
22103	R Elliott	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	-1	-1
22104	J Beresford	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	+7
22201	S Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+1	-1
22202	D Lytle	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	-1	-3
22203	A Haisland	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	-1	0
22204	N Jerkan	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+1
22301	P Bonar	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	-8
22302	D Kirkwood	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-5	-5
22401	D Robertson	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	+6	+6
22402	J Brown	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	+1	+8
22501	I Nolan	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	+4	+15
22502	P Atherton	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+1	-4
22503	S Nicol	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+2
22504	D Stancovic	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+2
22505	L Briscoe	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
22601	J Dodd	Blackburn Rovers	1.50	-1	-4
22602	F Benali	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	-6
22603	S Charlton	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	-1	-3
22701	D Kubicki	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	-1	-6
22702	M Scott	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	0	-1
22703	G Hall	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	0
22801	D Austin	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0	+20
22802	C Wilson	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+13
22803	J Edinburgh	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
22804	D Kerslake	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	0
22805	S Carr	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+1
22901	J Dicks	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	+4	+11
22902	T Breacker	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+4	+4
22903	K Rowland	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	+4	+3
22904	M Bowen	Blackburn Rovers	1.00	0	+5
22905	B Brown	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+9
23001	B Thatcher	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	+4	+4
23002	A Kimble	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	+3	+12
23003	K Cunningham	Blackburn Rovers	0.75	0	0
23004	D Jupp	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	0	0
23005	C Perry	Blackburn Rovers	0.25	+4	+17

30101	B Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00	-2	+9
30102	C Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3
30201	A Adams	Arsenal	4.00	-4	-14
30202	S Bould	Arsenal	3.00	0	+20
30203	M Keown	Arsenal	3.00	-1	-20
30204	A Linighan	Arsenal	1.00	0	0
30205	S Marshall	Arsenal	3.50	0	+16
30301	G Southgate	Aston Villa	3.00	+4	+22
30302	U Ekeogu	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-9
30304	C Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00	0	-9



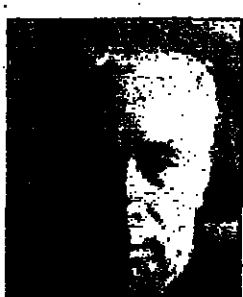
Rush scored his first goal for Leeds United on Sunday. But was it too late for too many ITF selectors?

				Pts	
				Wk	Ov
30305	R Solmeica	Aston Villa	1.00	+4	+5
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	-1	-1
30402	J Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	0
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0	-3
30404	N Marter	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0	+2
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	-1	-11
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0	+3
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	-1	+9
30504	B O'Neill	Celtic	3.00	+1	+1
30601	M Dubeury	Celtic	2.50	-1	-4
30602	F Leboeuf	Celtic	2.50	-2	-14
30603	F Sinclair	Celtic	2.00	0	0
30604	D Lee	Celtic	2.00	0	+3
30605	A Myers	Celtic	1.50	0	+8
30606	E Johnson	Celtic	1.50	0	+10
30607	J Kjeldbjerg	Celtic	0.50	0	0
30701	L Daleh	Coventry City	2.00	-1	-1
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	-2	0
30801	I Strmca	Derby County	2.50	-1	-2
30802	D Wessell	Derby County	1.00	0	0
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0	+2
30804	J Laursen	Derby County	1.00	0	+7
30901	M Carson	Derby County	0.50	0	0
30902	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0	+8
31001	M Miller	Dundee United	0.75	0	-4
31002	I Den Bieman	Dundee United	0.75	0	-7
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	-1	-2
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	-2	-3
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	-1	-9
31201	D McPherson	Hibernian	1.00	0	+8
31202	P Ritchie	Hibernian	1.00	-1	-12
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	-4
30902	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	+4	+11
31401	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	-5
31402	R McGovern	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	-5
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	+4	+11
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	+2
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	+4	+4
31504	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31601	S Walsh	Leeds United	1.00	0	+8
31602	J Watts	Leeds United	1.00	-2	-9
31603	P Dink	Leeds United	0.50	0	0
31604	S Prior	Leeds United	1.00	-2	-3
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+10
31702	J Soares	Liverpool	3.50	0	0
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+11
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	+7
31705	D McCall	Liverpool	1.00	0	+14
31801	G Paltter	Manchester United	3.00	0	+1
31802	D Wetherall	Manchester United	3.00	0	+1
31803	R Johnson	Manchester United	2.50	0	+11
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-9
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-7
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-11
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-4
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	0.75	-1	-3
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+11
32101	P Albert	Newcastle United	4.50	-1	-7
32102	S Howey	Newcastle United	3.00	0	+7
32103	C Peacock	Newcastle United	3.00	-2	-10
32201	C Cooper	Nottingham Forest	3.00	+2	+4
32202	S Chettle	Nottingham Forest	2.50	-1	-2
32203	S Blatnik	Nottingham Forest	1.00	-2	-3
32302	S Dennis	Raith Rovers	1.00	0	-19
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	+4	+28
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	0
32403	J Bjornlund	Rangers	3.50	+1	+17
32404	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	+4	+14
32501	V Newsome	Sheffield Wednesday	1.50	+4	+13
32502	D Walker	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32503	C Longthorn	Sheffield Wednesday	0.25	0	0
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	-2	-13
32602	A Nelson	Southampton	1.00	0	-2
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	-1	-1
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	-1	-7
32605	U van Gobbel	Southampton	0.50	-2	-1
32701	R Smith	Southampton	1.00	0	+13
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.00	-1	-10
32703	R Ord	Sunderland	0.50	0	+12
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+20
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham Hotspur	2.50	0	+18
32803	G Habbitt	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00	0	0
32804	J Curry	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32805	K Scott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	0
32806	S Nethercott	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0	-3
32901	S Bliff	West Ham United	2.50	+4	+7
32902	M Ripper	West Ham United	2.50	+4	+7
32903	S Potts	West Ham United	2.00	-2	-2
32904	R Smith	West Ham United	1.50	0	0
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham United	0.50	0	0
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	+4	+4
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+12
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY DECEMBER 3 1996

Exporters squeezed as pound hits 3-year high

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

STERLING jumped to its highest level against the mark for nearly three years even as the first evidence emerged that British manufacturers are beginning to suffer from the pound's strength.

The pound gained more than 1½ pence to hit a high of DM2.6002, its best level since February 1994. It also appreciated about half a cent against the dollar, nearly reaching peak levels last seen in October 1992 just after sterling was forced to leave the European exchange-rate mechanism. On its effective index against a basket of currencies, the pound closed sharply higher at 94.5 from

94.0 on Friday. Reports that the pound is starting to affect exports negatively — but also exert a useful downward pressure on prices — came from the Chartered Institute of Purchasing & Supply, which released its latest purchasing managers' survey.

Overall, the survey showed manufacturing industry expanding for the sixth month running, but recovery remains slow. Output grew in November, but the rate of growth was down slightly. The Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 54.4 from 54.5 in October.

Orders accelerated, driven by stronger demand for consumer goods and components. Export orders continued to grow, but the institute said sterling's was reported to have reduced some sales.

The institute said: "The survey found evidence that the recent rise of sterling has had an impact on new orders from overseas. However, any fall in overseas demand was easily outweighed by the healthy state of orders from domestic markets, with con-

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Softly, softly 31

sumer goods firms still very much at the forefront of growth."

Encouragingly, the pound affected prices paid for raw materials. Prices, which had shown signs of picking up between August

and October, fell again in November. "The recent increase in deflationary pressures was almost entirely a result of the stronger pound making imported inputs cheaper in sterling terms," the institute said.

At the margin, yesterday's survey may help the Chancellor to fend off any Bank of England demands for higher base rates at the next monetary meeting on December 11. However, the Bank was also given ammunition with yesterday's news of rapid growth in M0 narrow money supply in November. The Bank said M0 grew by a seasonally adjusted 7.5 per cent in November which equals this year's peak growth rates in June and August and is the highest since December 1988. Although the relationship

between M0 and retail sales has not been close in recent years, it will still be taken as a warning of a pick-up in consumer spending.

Sterling's strength was not the only highlight in the foreign exchanges. The dollar jumped to six-week highs against the mark, profiting from a strong American purchasing managers' survey as well as comments by Omar Issing, Bundesbank chief economist. He said investors may well switch to dollar assets at the onset of European monetary union. Both the dollar and sterling have profited from weakness in the mark and other currencies expected to join a single currency. The dollar ended in Europe at about DM1.5437 compared with DM1.5320 late on Friday.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET		
FTSE 100	4038.5	(-19.5)
Yield	3.85%	
FTSE All share	1275.08	(-8.28)
Nikkei	20574.88	(-345.67)
New York		
Dow Jones	6886.30	(-35.40)
S&P Composite	752.98	(-4.04)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5.50%	(8.9%)
Long Bond	10.75%	(10.7%)
Yield	6.38%	(6.37%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-month interbank	6.75%	(6.7%)
Life long gtr		
future (Dec)	112	(111.7)

STERLING		
New York	1.6837*	(1.6823)
London		
\$	1.5847	(1.5803)
DM	2.5958	(2.5928)
FF	6.6177	(6.6155)
SP	2.2131	(2.1883)
Yen	191.88	(191.21)
S index	54.4	(54.5)

\$\$\$ DOLLAR		
London		
DM	1.5436*	(1.5375)
FF	6.2358*	(6.2228)
SP	1.3149*	(1.3033)
Yen	113.79*	(113.67)
S index	54.4	(54.5)

Tokyo close Yen 113.88		
London close	\$371.05	(\$371.50)

STERLING		
Brent 15-day (Feb)	\$22.30	(\$22.15)

STERLING		
London close	\$371.05	(\$371.50)

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London close	\$371.05	(\$371.50)

STERLING		
London close	\$371.05	(\$371.50)

Racal shares in £150m slide after warning

By ERIC REGULY

A PROFITS warning from Racal, the defence electronics and communications group, yesterday triggered one of the biggest single-day declines of a top Stock Exchange company.

The shares fell by 18 per cent, wiping almost £150 million off Racal's market value, and City analysts gave a warning that the worst may not be over.

The shares broke through their year low of 252p to close at 205p, down 51p, after Racal said that its radio division, one of its largest businesses, would report operating losses in the second half of the year. The downturn, it said, would slice £20 million from the company's pre-tax profits for the full year.

The warning came five months after David Elsbury, chief executive, and Sir Ernest Harrison, the chairman, assured the City that pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 would exceed last year's £70.4 million return.

James Heal, an analyst at Hoare Govett, now expects pre-tax profits of £45.5 million, including exceptional charges, in 1996-97, against his previous forecast of £65.5 million.

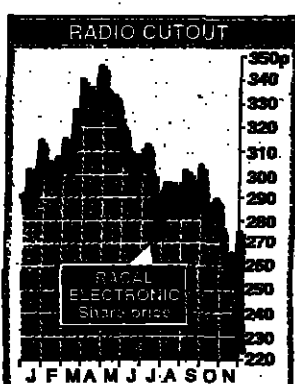
Although sales in the radio division, which makes military communications equipment such as combat radios, have been on the wane, Racal said that it did not realise the full scope of the downturn until a board meeting held last Friday. As a result, it decided to release its interim results today instead of on Thursday.

Mr Elsbury said that it was "not logistically possible" to release them yesterday.

Racal said that it expects to report interim pre-tax profits of £21 million, including exceptional charges, against £30.1 million in the same period a year ago.

The radio division is suffering because more competitors are chasing fewer contracts. It relies almost entirely on defence forces around the world for orders. Three expected orders — from Latin America, the Middle East and Britain — have failed to come through.

Mike Styles, an analyst of Credit Lyonnais Laing, said: "They've been fighting against the French and Americans (for



orders in the Middle East." The division's costs, meanwhile, have climbed because of the British Government's decision to delay the "Bowman" contract until 1999.

Racal leads one of the two consortiums vying for the £2 billion contract to supply the Army with digital battlefield communication systems, and said that development work to support the bid is about £100 million and climbing.

Mr Elsbury said that the radio division is undergoing a strategic review, which may result in its restructuring next year. He said: "We're looking at all options, including joint ventures and mergers."

Selling the division has not been ruled out, he added.

The problems in the radio

division cap several months of bad news. In June, Racal announced that it would take an exceptional £20 million charge to restructure its ailing data products business, which manufactures modems and other types of communications and access equipment.

A cost-reduction programme was put in place and two factories — one in Britain, the other in Italy — were closed. Racal said that a turnaround is now in place, with the data products business expected to generate "modest" profits in the second half.

In the autumn, British Telecom emerged as the winner to replace the British Armed Forces' telecoms system. Racal, the only other bidder, had expected to win the £1 billion contract. As the company's misfortunes increased, City brokerage firms downgraded their earnings forecasts.

Mr Heal, of Hoare Govett, thought the shares at 205p are not low enough to reflect the uncertainties that Racal faces. "I'm still cautious at this level," he said. Some analysts think that the shares could fall further, to 200p, before a recovery takes place.

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Sir Ernest Harrison, Racal chairman, warned of operating losses in its radio division

Gerald Ratner back on the treadmill

By JON ASHWORTH



Ratner: enormous energy

GERALD RATNER, who revolutionised the British jewellery trade, is opening a fitness centre in Henley-on-Thames — his most visible venture since an ill-fated remark four years ago prompted a change of career.

Mr Ratner, 47, has teamed up with Tony Colborne, a Henley businessman, to launch The Workshop, the first in a possible string of fitness clubs. It is due to open next Easter, luring local high-rollers with virtual reality bicycles, and other futuristic treats. Membership costs £50 a month, with a £200 joining fee.

Where other businessmen dream up winning ideas in the bath, Mr Ratner has gone one better. With time on his hands after leaving Ratners, he started going to the gym, and liked exercising so much that he decided to make a career of it. "I feel much better for it," he said, speaking

from his home at Bray, along the river from Henley. "I have an enormous amount of energy, and feel in a good frame of mind." He works out three times a week, using a personal trainer.

Mr Ratner felt that Henley was lacking in gyms, and set about tailor-making his own venue. Work has started on a 15,000 sq ft site, half a mile from Henley's high street, and 15 minutes from his own door. Mr Ratner and his partner have invested "a few million pounds" in the venture.

Patrons will enjoy the use of virtual reality cycling machines, which will create the impression of racing against other cyclists. Less competitive sorts will be able to cycle off "down the street" — much more interesting than staring at a blank wall. Considerable sums are being invested in multi-media televisions.

Mr Ratner intends to cut a visible

figure at The Workshop. He said: "It will allow me to mix business with pleasure, and chat to people, and make sure everything is running smoothly." Leaving Ratners was perhaps a blessing. "I don't want to get back to working seven days a week. I'm not in so much of a hurry these days."

Working out has clearly done wonders for Mr Ratner, who has avoided the limelight since leaving Ratners, now Signet, in November 1992. Fitness aside, he is advising on the factory-style shopping outlet at Tobacco Dock in east London and has applied for permission to open a multiplex cinema at the site.

In a return to the territory he knows best, he has also signed up as a consultant to a nationwide jewellery chain — in France. He will pick his words with care.

Lines found guilty of lying to investors

By JON ASHWORTH

THE former chairman and founder of MTM, the specialty chemicals group now known as Meristem, has been convicted of false accounting and lying to investors, at the conclusion of a five-month trial. Richard Lines, 60, was found guilty on three counts at the Old Bailey. His former finance director, Thomas Baxter, 45, was convicted on two counts, but acquitted on a third.

Sentencing is expected before Christmas. The case, brought by the Serious Fraud Office in conjunction with the North Yorkshire Police fraud squad, was triggered by a collapse in the MTM share price in March 1992. Investors, including pension funds and City institutions, suffered losses of £250 million.

Lines was convicted on two counts of false accounting, and one count of making misleading, false or deceptive statements. Baxter was convicted on one count of false accounting, and one count of making misleading, false or deceptive statements. He was acquitted on a further count of false accounting.

The jury had been told that Lines and Baxter "cooked the books" of MTM to make it appear more profitable than it was. Lines profited handsomely, selling shares worth £3 million in 1991, and using some of the money to buy a farm worth £1.8 million in North Yorkshire. He also owns a home in Cleveland which has a swimming pool and stables.

Lines was accused of making a series of false announcements about MTM's profitability, taking advantage of the buoyant share price to sell shares, and to fund the acquisition, in 1990, of Hardwicke Chemicals. He was described by the prosecution as a "forceful" man who had "a clear and determined view of the direction in which he wanted to steer the business". He founded MTM after 11 years with ICI, and previously spent 15 years in the Royal Navy.

Sir John Harvey-Jones, former chairman of ICI, appeared as a character witness at his trial. Matters came to a head after BDO Binder Hamlyn, the company's auditor, refused to sign off the accounts. Lines and Baxter were charged in December 1994.

Halifax resisting Abbey's rate rise

By CAROLINE MERRELL

THE HALIFAX, Britain's biggest building society, is resisting pressure to follow Abbey National and lift its loan rate.

It is holding rates at 6.99 per cent, in spite of the move yesterday by its biggest rival to lift loan rates by a quarter percentage point. The Coventry and the Northern Rock also announced increases, bringing to five the lenders that have put up rates in response to the base rate rise six weeks ago. Then, many lenders said that they would not lift rates for fear of damaging the housing market recovery. Most now say they are reviewing their rates.

Many societies expect the Government to increase base rates by another quarter point next week after it meets the Bank of England.

Abbey National's rise means that its 1.6 million borrowers with mortgages of up to £60,000 will pay 7.29 per cent. Those with loans exceeding £60,000 will pay 7.24 per cent. Repayments on a £50,000 loan will now be £339 a month — up 17p.

Abbey said that it has raised its rates to offer its 12 million savers better deals. It plans to lift savings rates by up to a quarter point this week.

The Northern Rock raised rates for new borrowers by a half point, to 7.49 per cent. The Coventry lifted its rate to 7.25 per cent, from 6.99 per cent.

The Halifax House Price Index today indicates prices up 0.5 per cent last month, after October's 1.7 per cent rise, to put annual house price inflation at 7 per cent.

Starting at

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Interest rates seem to be on the rise again, which is why this is such a good deal: for five years, your payments go down should rates fall, but will never rise beyond 7.95% (8.4% APR). And note: the average rate over the last five years has been 8.72%. For more details, call us now.

Special example: A £100,000 variable rate mortgage on a property valued at £100,000, repaid over 25 years, assuming completion on 2001/06/30, 300 payments, equivalent of £100,000 at 6.74% (7.1% APR) for 5 years, then variable rate mortgage, with a 7.95% (8.4% APR) cap. The mortgage is subject to a 10% increase in the first 3 years, or 1 month's interest in years 4, 5 & 6, and the payable. Loans subject to initial, value and age of property, different rates for different types of property. Lender's final decision. John Charcol Ltd is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. The FSA does not regulate mortgage payments. Please contact us for more details. Additional money in the form of a mortgage payment may be required. Credit rating: John Charcol Ltd is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP PAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

JOHN CHARCOL

Top firms elect fewer women directors

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

FEWER women are being elected to the boards of Britain's biggest companies, even in businesses overtly favourable to women, the leading organisation for women in business has acknowledged.

The fall is a blow to leaders of the Opportunity 2000, Business in the Community campaign, which yesterday marked the fifth anniversary of its launch by the Prime Minister.

Campaign leaders acknowledged that even in organisations that are members of the Opportunity 2000 initiative the proportion of women directors fell in 1996, from 16 per cent to 11 per cent. But they said this followed a doubling of the level in the 12 months to October 1995.

The representation of women on company boards generally remained steady at about 3.3 per cent, research published yesterday by Opportunity 2000 showed. The proportion of women in management overall was also stable, with 31 per cent of managers in Opportunity 2000 organisations now women, against about 12 per cent in management generally.

Confirming a new push to take the campaign for greater employment opportunities for women in business into the small firms sector, the campaign's leaders said that 80 per cent of the UK's top businesses were now Opportunity 2000 members. Increasingly, companies viewed their involvement as a "bottom-line issue" that produced direct financial benefits for the company, and social and employment benefits for the men and women within it, they added.

Campaign leaders said that economic and employment demographics, including women making up 65 per cent of new employees by 2000, meant that women of working age had become the most dynamic component of the European job market.

Lady Howe of Aberavon, the campaign's chairman, said that Opportunity 2000 was increasingly being seen by employers and employees as a British success story. But she argued against complacency.

Columbia Pictures, the Hollywood film studio, has appointed Amy Pascal, a 38-year-old Hollywood veteran, as its new president. The appointment is the latest move by Sony, its owner, to clear up the management turmoil in its US entertainment arm. Ms Pascal is moving from Turner Pictures, where her job as president of the company was to oversee the merger between Turner and Time Warner. She worked at Columbia for several years before going to Turner.



Lady Howe, left, chairman of Opportunity 2000, and Liz Bargh, director, publicising the campaign yesterday

Offer relents to phase in power switch

THE electricity industry regulator has bowed to pressure from electricity companies by agreeing to phase in competition for the household supply of electricity from April 1998 (Eric Reguly).

Professor Stephen Littlechild had suggested the industry was dragging its heels. The regional electricity companies said it would be difficult to enable all the country's 20 million households to choose their supplier by next April. Under Offer's new proposals, competition will begin on the same date but will be limited to an equivalent 10 per cent of total households. The second phase, covering an additional 3½ million customers, will begin two months later, while the third will begin at the end of July.

Civil servants' leaders vote for MSF merger

By Our Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S main white-collar trade union for private-sector employees looks set to expand extensively into the public sector after leaders of the professional civil servants' union voted for a merger.

The move could be one of the most significant trade union mergers in recent years. It could run into considerable opposition from the membership of the civil servants' union, from other unions in the Civil Service and from the Government.

Leaders of the Institution of Professional, Managers and Specialists, which represents more than 70,000 professional staff in the Civil Service and privatised concerns, decided at the weekend to seek a full merger with the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union, which represents more

than half a million general technical staff.

After failing to draw together a range of smaller white-collar unions into a full federation, the IPMS had been examining merger proposals from a number of unions. At a special meeting of the union's executive in Eastbourne, the leadership voted 155 for MSF, and against merging with the PTC civil servants' union. Five others voted for the status quo.

Some activists in the non-political IPMS will oppose a merger with the MSF, which has roots in hard-left union activism, though the union has, in recent years, taken a much more mainstream line under Roger Lyons, its general secretary. Any merger would have to be approved by a ballot of IPMS members.

Other unions organising in the Civil Service — especially the middle-ranking PTC — will be unhappy about the proposed merger, which may well prompt membership poaching by other unions.

Government bargaining units with which the IPMS negotiates — including defence establishments — may also be uneasy about the move, although IPMS leaders believe that a possible change of government at the election is likely to preclude significant changes in union recognition arrangements if the MSF moves into the Civil Service.

MSF leaders will welcome the IPMS executive's vote. They believe merger would give them a platform in key areas of the public sector, and boost the organisation of the MSF, which has recently emerged from financial difficulties.

Investors back Emap expulsion of directors

By Oliver August and Frank Le Duc

EMAP shareholders have voted to rebel non-executive directors off the board by a 9-1 majority after months of dispute over changes in the articles of association.

Sir John Hoskyns, chairman, said that he could no longer work with Joe Cooke and Ken Simmonds because the mutual trust between them had broken down since the annual meeting in July, when the two directors voted against a rule change that allows the board to remove directors by a 75 per cent majority vote.

Sir John told a special meeting that there were no immediate plans to replace Mr Cooke and Mr Simmonds, but people would be interviewed with a view to replacing them to stand down next year.

Several institutional investors that backed the removal are understood to have done so on condition that Mr Cooke and Mr Simmonds be replaced. Sir John said he would prefer non-executive directors to be reduced by two permanently.

Sir John had assured shareholders in July that the new rules were not being introduced to remove the rebels, but, after further clashes, the board excluded the rebels and then moved to expel them.

Mr Cooke, who called for Sir John's resignation, suggested that the changes had been instigated by Robin Miller, chief executive.

MAM sells Swiss bank for £113m

MERCURY ASSET MANAGEMENT, the UK's biggest independent fund manager, has sold Mercury Bank, its Swiss private banking subsidiary, for about £113 million. The sale, to the Swiss private banking arm of Safra Holdings, the US company, is in keeping with Mercury's strategy of concentrating on its core business of fund management.

Hugh Stevenson, MAM chairman, said: "We are delighted with the terms of the transaction. Throughout the sale discussions, we have been anxious to ensure the best interests of Mercury Bank's clients are safeguarded." The company said it did not plan any further disposals immediately. Mercury Asset Management will spend the proceeds of the sale on buying fixed interest securities. Mercury Bank contributed £8.9 million of the total £140.4 million profits made by MAM for the year ending March 31, 1996.

Celsis pioneers test

CELSIS INTERNATIONAL, the microbial diagnostics company, has launched a rapid-detection test for the E. coli O157 bacterium, which was responsible for the food-poisoning outbreak in Leamington. The outbreak has so far claimed five lives and more than 50 victims are in hospital across Central Scotland. The test uses a dipstick and works as simply as a home-pregnancy test, Celsis said, and will confirm the presence of E. coli within minutes as opposed to the hours or even days required by some other techniques.

Young buys Madison

HYOUNG, the marketing and distribution group, has agreed to buy Madison, the bicycle parts distributor, for £6.86 million in cash and shares. The company, which last made an acquisition two years ago, is funding the deal with a £5.78 million placing and open offer, and the rest through borrowings. In the year to September 30, Young's pre-tax profits were £2.62 million (£2.01 million) with earnings of 11.6p a share (8.9p). A final dividend of 2.9p makes a total of 4.2p (3.9p) and is due January 31.

BTP warning on pound

BTP, the speciality chemicals company, gave warning yesterday that the strength of sterling could wipe up to £2 million from its profits by the end of the year. But Stephen Hannam, chief executive, said the loss would be on paper. BTP, which earns 70 per cent of its profits from overseas, returned pre-tax profits 13 per cent ahead, at £23.7 million, for the six months to September 30. Earnings were 9.91p (9.07p); an interim dividend of 4.05p (3.85p) is due on February 10. The shares fell 7p yesterday, to 305½p.

Kenwood bid backing

THE UK Active Value Fund, holder of a 9 per cent stake in Kenwood, stepped up its pressure on the household appliance company's management yesterday, urging its board to give proper consideration to a reported informal bid approach by Pifco, a fellow manufacturer of domestic appliances. Kenwood shares rose 13p to 233½p yesterday. The company is due to report half-year results today. Kenwood is currently capitalised at around £107 million.

Acal interim higher

ACAL, the electronics company, increased pre-tax profits to £4.65 million from £4.45 million in the six months to September 30. Earnings per share rose to 14.2p from 13p and the interim dividend was lifted from 2.75p to 3.16p. John Curry, chairman, said Acac's traditional agency business in electronic components, systems and industrial controls saw sales and profit growth in the first half. The PC parts unit performed unsatisfactorily, but problems had now been resolved.

Croda profits ahead

CRODA INTERNATIONAL, the chemicals company, said provisional figures for the third quarter showed a 35 per cent rise in pre-tax profits on sales that were 9 per cent higher. It said demand levels and new products gave the company optimism but sterling's strength could threaten export margins. Michael Valentine, chairman, said improving demand and new products gave grounds for optimism but that if the current rates of exchange of sterling persisted, they would reduce export margins. The shares were unchanged at 336p.

Sears in Freemans bid talks

By Sarah Cunningham

SEARS, the retailing group, confirmed yesterday that it is in talks with a number of companies interested in acquiring its Freemans mail order business.

Liam Strong, Sears' chief executive, is understood to be in preliminary discussions with at least four potential buyers. They are Littlewoods, the privately-owned pools and retailing company; Great Universal Stores, Britain's largest mail order company; N Brown, the smaller mail order specialist; and Otto Versand, the private German mail order giant and owner of Grattan. Freemans is expected to fetch £350-£400 million.

Sears, which also operates Selfridges, British Shoe and the Wallis and Warehouse fashion chains, said talks could end in "the divestment of the business or collaboration with a third party." The sale of Freemans, rather than the establishment of a joint venture, is considered the most likely.

GLS could meet regulatory problems if it tries to take over Freemans, because of its 30 per cent share of the UK mail order market. It would have to argue that regulators should concentrate on its relatively minor share of the UK retail market.

Pennington, page 29

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.15	1.90
Austria Sch	19.20	17.70
Belgium Fr	66.25	61.50
Canada \$	2.25	2.10
Cyprus Cyp	0.815	0.790
Denmark Kr	10.48	9.80
Finland Mk	5.93	5.50
France Fr	9.18	8.53
Germany Dm	2.74	2.53
Greece Dr	454	390
Hong Kong \$	13.53	12.83
Indonesia Rp	120	100
Ireland P	1.05	0.97
Israel Shk	5.77	5.12
Italy Lira	3684	2908
Japan Yen	204.50	188.10
Malta	0.844	0.800
Netherlands Gld	3.084	2.894
New Zealand \$	2.51	2.20
Norway Kr	11.35	10.55
Portugal Esc	272.00	252.50
S Africa R	8.32	7.80
Spain Ptas	255.50	212.50
Sweden Kr	11.83	11.13
Switzerland Fr	2.35	2.15
Turkey Lira	179400	167400
USA \$	1.779	1.648

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

Have you calculated the real cost of airline loyalty schemes to your company?

travelling executives were choosing flights which earned maximum points rather than sticking to airlines offering the most economic flights

The Financial Times 7/10/96 (from MORI survey)

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S&N's 26 rise cheer the brewer

Troubled Wicke to launch £50m

net names International Internet Name Registry

□ Lenders bet on no immediate rate rise □ Buyers circle around Freemans □ Order gap clobbers electronics shares

Truths shrouded by Abbey habit

TIME was when, on moving house, you could expect the estate agents to lie through their teeth, your vendor to swindle you and your fellow purchasers to gazump. But at least you could rely on your dull, slow, safe old building society.

No more, it seems. As the building societies become banks, so does their behaviour seem more — well, bank-like, and that is not intended as a compliment. Abbey National was painting its quarter-point rise as a bid to help starving investors, who in a low-inflation environment have had to put up with lousy returns on their savings. If a few million mortgage-holders have to pay more to correct this, then fair's fair.

Except that the Abbey's rise, and those of the other lenders that followed it, is more to do with widening margins and raising profits, because while home owners have to pay an extra quarter point on their mortgages, investors see average rises of 6.11 per cent, on the new rates to be announced on Thursday. The bank keeps the difference.

There is also an unreality about the quoted mortgage rates, because of the proliferation of special packages, low-start mortgages, cash-back offers and other gimmicks used to attract new borrowers. This means that those people moving house, or

prepared to move their loans, are being subsidised by those staying put, in their homes or at their existing lenders. So much for loyalty — the lenders now make their profits out of consumer ignorance and inertia.

Still, let us try to be positive. The move by the Abbey and its rivals suggests that the next rise in base rates may be some way off. The Halifax will certainly follow suit after the next meeting between Chancellor and Bank Governor a week tomorrow. The Abbey is assuming that the Chancellor will hold off from a further base rate rise; his Budget performance makes this a virtual certainty. Sensible City analysts, those not rushing around waiting for the sky to fall, expect a further quarter point on rates early in the spring, after the next inflation report, the first estimate of this quarter's GDP and some indication how Christmas retail sales went.

This will not damage the housing market, or threaten any reversal of the price rises so far and the 7 per cent rise for this year that the Halifax is shooting for today. Politically, mortgage

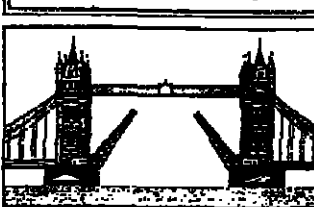
rates cannot rise too far before the election, because this would threaten the spring home-selling season and what "feel-good" factor there is around.

Come the election, and interest rates will have to rise. This is not meant as a party-political point, but they will rise fastest under a Labour Government determined to demonstrate its fiscal responsibility by heading advice from the Bank to raise them. Base rates have not been in double figures since 1992, and it would require a mismanagement of the economy beyond the abilities of the two main contenders to push them back there again.

Catalogue of aspirations

WELL-LEAKED reports of the auction for the Freemans mail order business, which could be under new ownership by Christmas, coincide with a study of why anyone should want to be in mail order in the first place, a business with a peculiar inability to shake off a cheap and tacky image despite heavy investment

PENNINGTON



Home shopping should have been one of the success stories of the 1990s. Those with money work longer hours, while retail innovations such as loyalty cards and proposed moves into banking throw up exactly the kind of consumer data needed by mail order operators to identify the right customers. Such "narrow-casting" is the key to home shopping, so saving on production and posting costs.

As Corporate Intelligence on Retailing, the specialist consultancy, says: "While the 1,000-page agency catalogues are often compared to department stores, there is still no equivalent of Harrods or Harvey Nichols in the mail order world." Mail order sales are being outpaced

by other forms of retailing, and the industry has to replace its traditional downmarket consumer base with more prosperous customers.

The consultancy says one way forward is collaboration between high street retailers and mail order companies. If so, then the traffic is currently in the other direction. The most likely purchasers for Freemans, from Liam Strong's troubled Sears, are Littlewoods and Germany's Otto Versand, already involved in downmarket mail order. By contrast, consider the widely-rumoured entry into home shopping by Marks & Spencer, and the potential of a clothing catalogue with the same customer loyalty M&S already enjoys.

Racal's fickle finger...

THERE is something distinctly odd, at first glance, about Racal Electronic's profit warning yesterday. On second glance, and all subsequent readings, too. Or perhaps it is just that fickle blue finger of fate, because Racal

is the second of the four owners of Camelot, the National Lottery operator, in less than a fortnight to have shocked the market with a profits warning. De La Rue lost 16 per cent of its value, and Racal saw a matching share collapse after identifying a previously unforeseen hole in the order book.

Let us examine the exact sequence of events. On Friday the Racal board was told, by whom it is not clear, that orders for radio communication gear would be about £30 million lower in the second half than in the corresponding period. Because of the margins the group enjoys, this would leave profits £20 million lower than the City had thought.

That orders shortfall is a huge chunk of the business of a division that turned over £160 million last year. It represents two or three lost contracts. But no one noticed until last Friday. The board then took the almost unprecedented move of putting out a profits warning three days before the interim figures. These were brought forward, but only by two days, to this morning. Asked why these could not

coincide with yesterday's warning, so allowing the City to ask all the necessary questions, the company could only witter on about "logistics".

The share price says it all. Racal shares are now below where they started the year, after a hefty jump in early summer. The company has since lost out on one big military contract, and another has been deferred. With such a lumpy orders performance, an erratic share price is the least investors can expect.

Judgment of peers

FAMILIARITY evidently breeds contempt for the Keswick family's Jardine Matheson octopus, whose oriental achievements impressed from afar for so long. In 1995, Trafalgar House, the most prominent British tentacle, was voted, in *Management Today*, the company least admired by its peers in rival boardrooms. After Trafalgar's rescue takeover by Kvaerner, the 260th and bottom spot inevitably went to Eurotunnel. How could it be otherwise? At 259, however, lurks Kwik Save, the fast-shrinking downmarket retailer that was supposed to be the other British jewel in the Keswick's crown. Only that same Liam Strong, at Sears, down from 131 to 257, is seriously trying to spare their blushes.

S&N's 26% rise cheers the brewers

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

BREWING shares leapt yesterday after Scottish & Newcastle unveiled a sparkling half-year performance.

The company reported a 26 per cent rise in pre-tax interim profits, to £195 million, well above City expectations. Turnover rose by 24 per cent, to £1.66 billion.

S&N shares rose 11p, to 650p, as analysts upgraded full-year profit forecasts by about £10 million, to £380 million. Other brewers gained from S&N's confident outlook, with Whitbread rising 2½p, to a new high of 769p, and Bass up 3p, to 786½p.

S&N increased profits in its brewing division by 67 per cent, to £90 million, including the first full six months from Courage. The company said that it suffered a small fall in total volumes, but a better mix had improved margins. John Smith's, its main bitter brand, increased sales by 17 per cent. Volumes of Kronenbourg, the

premium lager brand, rose 13 per cent.

Profits in the retail division rose 12 per cent, to £75 million, boosted by a 13 per cent rise in food sales. The company — which owns brands such as Rat & Parrot, Barras & Co and Chef & Brewer — added 160 new branded pubs during the period to a managed house estate now totalling 1,900.

Brian Stewart, chief executive, said that S&N was looking to add 150 Chef & Brewers over the next two years to improve food takings further.

Leisure division profits fell 11 per cent, to £445 million. The company blamed £2 million of exceptional costs incurred after restructuring of Center Parc operations combined with negative currency movements. S&N said that trading on the Continent remained slow.

A 7.2p interim payout, up 10 per cent, is due on February 7.

Tempos, page 30

Troubled Wickes set to launch £50m call

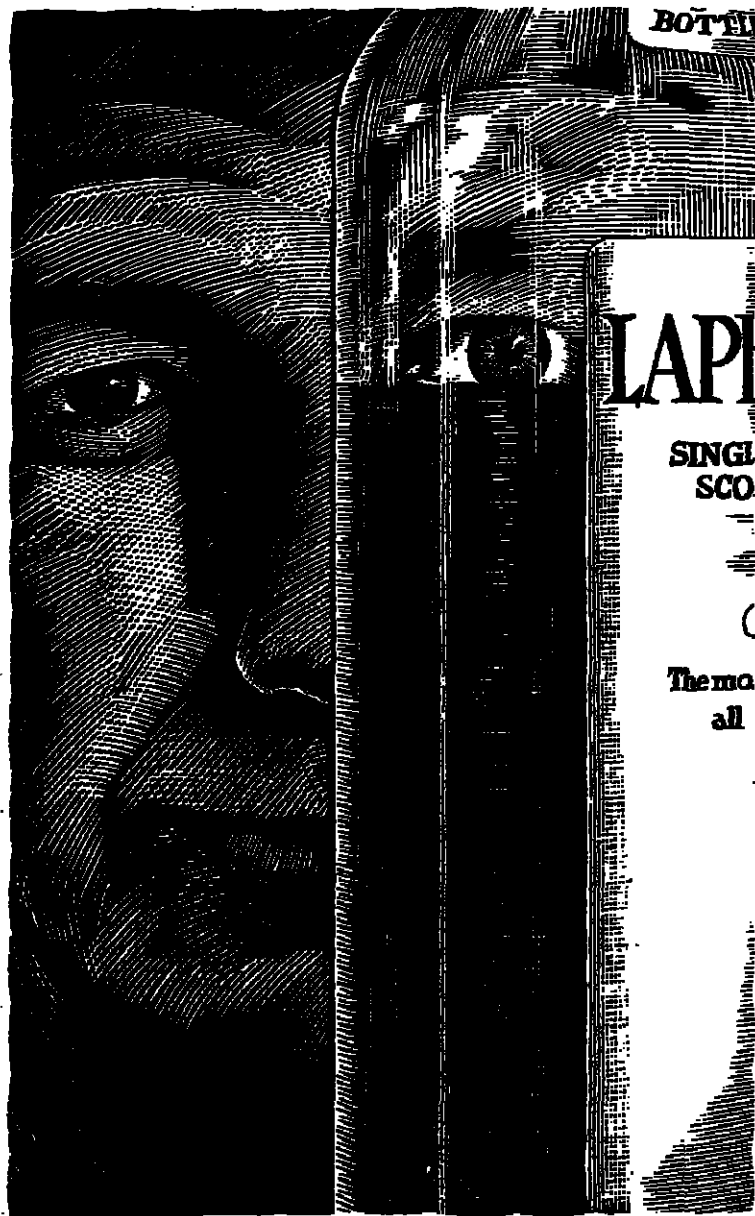
WICKES, the builders' merchant whose former senior managers are under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, is expected to launch the prospectus for a £50 million rights issue late next week (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company was earlier expected to try to raise about £30 million, but has since realised that it needs more cash to plug the gap left by three years of profit overstatement. The

recapitalisation will allow trading in its shares, suspended in June after accounting irregularities were uncovered, to resume in January.

In October, after an investigation by accountants and solicitors, Wickes disclosed that, in the three years to the end of 1995, it had overstated profits by £51 million. It said there had been "deliberate misrepresentation" of rebate arrangements with suppliers.

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Thema
all

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Sainsbury's up the junction

Sainsbury's state-of-the-art store in Clapham is a dry house, after the supermarket chain failed to obtain a drinks licence. A week since the store's grand opening on Budget day, and customers are still going thirsty. Due to a "misunderstanding", a sign in the wine and spirits aisle reads: "The licensing justices have not yet granted us a licence to sell liquor."

Sainsbury tells me that a hearing today with the local magistrate could bring welcome news. Meanwhile, it's smiles all round at Victoria Wine and Oddbins next door.

Governor's try
EDDIE GEORGE took on Hiroshi Tonomura, chairman of Nomura in Europe, at Twickenham last Saturday. Gambling on the England v New Zealand match, the two men pitted their forecasting skills in a rugby sweepstake.

The Governor's position was looking strong until half time, with his money on England scoring first, and an England victory by three points. But it was "Tono" who hit the jackpot, predicting the outcome exactly, with England scoring first and New Zealand winning by 15 points.

Unfortunately for the passionate angophile, he wasn't the only one to fare so well. The winning name was eventually pulled out of a hat, and a fellow guest ran off with the prize — a bottle of Jameson's.



"Don't look now but here comes Santa with our 1.4-point increase"

THE ban on advertising alcohol in France means that Scottish and Newcastle have been relegated to the bench for tomorrow's Ayrer v Glasgow Rangers match. Instead of sporting the McEwans logo, Glasgow's team will wear one-off shirts bearing the Center Parcs symbol. Glasgow won't muddy a shirt itself, whatever its design, as he is suspended for the game.

Hector's hiccup

HOIST by its own petard, Financial Dynamics yesterday fell victim to the malice of the office fax machine. Addressed to Roland Folz at Foreign & Colonial Management, a misdirected fax from FD's Charles Watson lands on my desk. Delighted with Hypo Bank's recent move to take management control of F&C, Watson suggests that a celebratory lunch to mark the success of Project Hector. Ever the professional, Watson adds: "We will also be sending you an invoice for expenses incurred during the project, such as press release distribution..."

Off their trolleys

AT EMAPS extraordinary meeting to decide the fate of two rebel directors, shareholders were treated to a joke by Anne Simpson, joint director of PricewaterhouseCoopers. Question: What's the difference between a non-executive director and a supermarket trolley? Answer: You can get lots of food and drink into both, but supermarket trolleys have a mind of their own.

MORAG PRESTON

Touch of biter-bitten spices latest 'Chainsaw Al' massacre

Ian Brodie on the company doctor of last resort with a well-honed flair for 'Dunlapping'

Albert J. Dunlap, also known as "Chainsaw Al", has been enjoying more publicity as a saviour of troubled companies than any American business leader since the flamboyant reign of Lee Iacocca at Chrysler.

Reporters have been lining up to interview him about his latest mass sackings. He has just taken his axe to half the 12,000 jobs at Sunbeam Corp, the sprawling consumer products company. He has also been promoting his new autobiography, *Mean Business: How I Save Bad Companies and Make Good Companies Great*. The book uses "to Dunlap" as a verb, meaning to turn a company around at lightning speed.

Now, suddenly, the biter has been bitten. Mr Dunlap's private life has been turned into public fodder. *Business Week* alleged that family ties seemingly meant less to him than he asserts in his book. He writes that what makes a successful individual comes down to one word, family, and he wishes that his parents were still alive to "see what they created".

But his estranged sister Denise alleges that he ignored his parents in their old age and was too busy to attend their funerals, that he refused to offer her emotional or financial help when she told him her daughter had leukaemia, and that his first wife alleged extreme cruelty in her divorce suit.

He was said to have shaded the details of his youth. His book says that he grew up poor in a New Jersey slum, the son of a dockworker. His sister says their father was a successful boiler-maker who took the family on holidays, recorded in photo albums, from Canada to Florida. She says her parents rewarded Mr Dunlap with a new car and a holiday in Europe when he graduated as an army officer from West Point military academy.

Mr Dunlap is no longer available for interviews. Instead of propounding his hard-charging theories as "the doctor of last resort", he issued a statement rebutting some but not all of his sister's comments. He said that he had endured a strained relationship with her for years and she was prone to making up stories about him that were baseless or exaggerated. He had supported her many times financially but his efforts were never appreciated. He was deeply saddened by her untimely death and had loved very much and had helped a great deal.

As for intimidating his first wife, as court papers alleged, Mr Dunlap said that in those days divorces were difficult to obtain unless couples embellished their evidence. Besides, he added, it was inappropriate to discuss family matters in the press. That might normally be the case, said *Business Week* but Mr Dunlap had made his life story part of his controversial management philosophy and therefore his



Albert J. Dunlap, above, christened 'Pinstripe Rambo' by his former employer, Sir James Goldsmith, below right, seen with Kerry Packer

character was a legitimate subject for scrutiny. For Mr Dunlap, the episode was a rare setback.

After his army stint, he learnt manufacturing from the shop floor up. An early management coup was the aggressive transformation of an ailing paper-cup firm, Lily-Tulip Inc, into a profitable plum. He was recruited by Sir James Goldsmith, whose friend John Aspinall, the naturalist and gambler, first coined the "chainsaw" label. Mr Dunlap complains that it makes him sound like a serial killer. He prefers Sir James's nickname for him: "Rambo in Pinstripes".

Mr Dunlap shook up Sir James's global holdings, including Crown-Zellerbach, a timber and oil conglomerate where he cut 22 distribution centres to four, sold the costly headquarters tower in San Francisco and moved to Oregon. He regards Sir

James as his mentor and lavishes praise on him in his book. "He was a larger-than-life influence on me, an absolutely brilliant, dynamic and gregarious man who fished me out of the corporate stream and made me what I am today. He encouraged me in everything I did and introduced me to a world of enormous wealth and power."

Moving to Australia, Mr Dunlap tackled Kerry Packer's Consolidated Press Holdings, a huge conglomerate, carving up 300 of 413 companies and discarding the unprofitable bits. Three years ago he was lured back to the United States by the board of Scott Paper, which had lost \$277 million in a year.

Mr Dunlap again went on the attack, slashing expenses, dumping product lines, merging others and paring debt. He dismissed 11,200 employees, a third of the workforce.

Brought into Sunbeam as chairman and CEO last July, he followed his pattern of moving quickly to change the old guard and the timeworn corporate culture. He reassembled the turnaround specialists who help him whenever he applies surgery to a sickly company. They fanned through Sunbeam seeking solutions. They returned with files five inches thick, recommending new marketing strategies, new advertising campaigns, a new slogan ("There's a New Sunbeam Shining") — and massive job cuts.

The 6,000 dismissals are perhaps the biggest single percentage cutback ever by a major US corporation. In addition, Mr Dunlap's recovery plan requires closing 18 of 26 factories and more than half the 61 warehouses, eliminating six regional headquarters and unloading 87 per cent of Sunbeam's 5,000 products, including clocks, furniture and bedding. He will concentrate on new lines, among them an "electric blanket with a brain" that adjusts to body temperature, and a toaster that applies "toasts" to its task.

Mr Dunlap said that his plan will save \$225 million a year. He expects revenue to double to \$2 billion by 1999, with \$1.2 billion coming from new products and joint ventures overseas. His plan cuts more deeply than Wall Street expected and there was the familiar criticism that Mr Dunlap was simply speeding up implementation of the original management's plans. His planned revenue growth will be hard going, but Sunbeam's shares have more than doubled from \$12 when Mr Dunlap joined, to a peak of \$29.75.

One Wall Street analyst told him during a conference call that "Chainsaw Al" was beginning to sound rather whimsical. "If you pull this off, you should be called 'Nuclear Al'," he said.



JANET BUSH

Softly, softly catchee euro

Euroceptics in Britain and elsewhere should not get too excited about the revolutionary mutterings in Paris last week. After years of putting up in silence with mass unemployment and annual waves of violent public-sector unrest all in the name of the franc fort and the dream of European monetary union, parts of the French political establishment appear to be questioning such self-sacrifice.

The former president, Giscard d'Estaing, was the biggest name to break rank. He argued that the dollar is grossly undervalued against European currencies, expressed concern that Germany does not share this view, and suggested that if Germany will not bring down the mark, and with it the franc, then France should devalue against the mark by cutting rates unilaterally.

His intervention gave succour to others. Two members of the Bank of France's policy-making council expressed similar views and were rebuked by Jean-Claude Trichet, governor of the bank, for airing personal opinions. At the weekend, the German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl, and President Chirac offered damage-limitation in the form of a joint statement committing themselves to maintaining the franc/mark parity.

So, is Franco-German unanimity in the run-up to monetary union, so far so solid, finally crumbling? Will the single currency project collapse? Will John Major or Tony Blair be spared having to make a choice after all? No, no, no, as Margaret Thatcher was fond of saying.

There is a big difference between calls for a franc devaluation against the mark — from a former president and the two notorious doves on the Bank of France's council — and a desire to ensure that the euro is not overvalued against the dollar and others, condemning Europe to uncompetitiveness and high unemployment.

A franc devaluation is unlikely, given France's long record of political commitment to EMU. But France may well push Germany for a looser Euro-

pean monetary policy as the quid pro quo for Germany's insistence on strict interpretation of the Maastricht criteria, and a tough stability pact to enforce fiscal discipline post-EMU. This negotiation goes to the heart of conceptual differences between the two countries. Every utterance out of Germany suggests that it wants a hard euro, with few members if necessary. But France's political dreamers are pursuing a more-merciful approach with a soft euro the inevitable result.

The question of who is allowed to join the euro is a genuinely contentious one. But the chasm on how soft or hard the euro should be vis-à-vis other currencies may not actually be that wide. Hans Tietmeyer, the Bundesbank President, said at the weekend that he would not object to a "slightly stronger dollar" against the mark. For all the tough talk, Germany's exporters could do with ammunition against Far Eastern tigers and the Bundesbank may well be contented to let unwitting surrogates in the Bank of France achieve this on its behalf.

Whatever the current disagreements, in the end France is likely to call the shots because Chancellor Kohl will do virtually anything to make sure the single currency goes ahead. Germany was notably more reluctant than France to see Italy readmitted to the ERM but France made sure it happened anyway. President Chirac publicly welcomed the prospect, Italy was emboldened formally to request readmittance and, once the monetary committee was convened, it was inconceivable that Germany could stop the process without huge damage to the credibility of the single currency project.

If France went and cut rates on its own, the Bundesbank might be angry but it would be forced to bail out the franc unless it wanted to be accused of wrecking EMU. A less dramatic but still highly effective course for the French would simply be to talk down the mark and franc. There is little doubt that France will get its soft euro. The chances are it will block Germany's stability pact straitjacket, too.

Impact of law on disability yet to be grasped by firms

Act offers ample opportunities to astute lawyers, writes Grania Langdon-Down

Employers will have to get to grips with a whole new concept of discrimination as the job-related provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 come into effect yesterday. While critics of the Act argue that it does not go far enough, it will have immense significance for employers — both financially and operationally.

Firms that employ more than 20 people must ensure that their employment practices and premises do not disadvantage someone with a disability. This applies to recruitment, terms and conditions of employment, opportunities for promotion or any other benefit, or dismissal. All disabled workers are protected, including contract and self-employed staff. Employers are also required to make "reasonable" adjustments to working conditions or the workplace, so disabled people are not put at a disadvantage. Those who do not meet the requirements of the Act, could face an industrial tribunal hearing that can award unlimited compensation.

The Government has estimated that the employment provisions of the Act will cost employers about £6 million overall. It also expects 2,000 cases to go to industrial tribunals in the first year alone. Jane Ellis, an employment law specialist, said: "Employ-



Disabled rights campaigners helped to bring about an important change in employment law

ers who ignore the rights of disabled workers now do so at their peril.

"Many employers are already used to dealing with the concept of discrimination in relation to race and sex and may believe they are well equipped to deal with the provisions of the Act."

"But many have not yet grasped its full impact. On the face of it, the obligations the Act imposes on employers to accommodate disabled people go much further than the law relating to sexual or racial discrimination."

The Act also lists examples of adjustments employers would be expected to make to accommodate a disabled worker. They extend far beyond simply removing physical limitations and include allocating some of the disabled person's duties to another person, altering work-

ing hours, allowing time off for rehabilitation, assessment or treatment, acquiring or modifying equipment, modifying procedures for testing, providing a reader or interpreter.

However, factors such as operational requirements and financial considerations will be taken into account in determining whether it is "reasonable" for the employers to make the adjustments.

The Government has estimated that it will cost employers on average £200 to accommodate a disabled person, although many suspect the bill will be much higher. Employers can be helped by charities and other organisations, including the government-funded Access to Work Scheme.

Ms Ellis said: "The Act means, for example, an employer should not simply dismiss a production worker who

suffers from long-term back trouble and can no longer move easily or lift ordinary weights. Instead, he must look at ways of adjusting the person's working conditions to overcome the problem."

Employers are also going to have to be aware of "disability etiquette", both in recruiting and in the workplace. For example, advertisements should no longer say "ring this telephone number" because that would suggest a prejudice against deaf people. They are also vicariously liable for the actions of their employees or agents so staff need to be properly trained.

Asked if the Act would stop discrimination, Ms Ellis said: "What I can predict is a great deal of litigation. It is likely to turn into a field day for lawyers because so much of the wording is open to interpretation."

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Four vie for BR computer business

By Keith Rodgers

THE British Railways Board has drawn up a shortlist of four potential buyers for BR Business Systems, its computer arm, early next year.

Final bids for the division, which provides ticketing and operating computer services for a range of customers including Railtrack and the train operating companies (TOCs), will be submitted this month, and the sale is expected to go through in February. Sources said the company is likely to be valued at up to £50 million.

Cap Gemini, the French-quoted computer services company, and Sema, which is 41 per cent French-owned and quoted in London and Paris, are understood to be on the shortlist, along with Andersen Consulting and CFM, a subsidiary of ICL. All four declined to comment on the sale.

One surprising absentee is EDS, the computer services giant, which has won a large number of public-sector computer contracts, including deals with the Inland Revenue and the Department of Social Security. The company submitted a bid, but its offer is believed to have been rejected as too low.

BRBS, which employs around 1,100 people, had turnover of about £87 million in the year to March 31, and is thought to be profitable. Although it has more than 80 customers, negotiations over the sale have been complicated by the contracts with Railtrack and TOCs, which form a key part of the division's business. Railtrack said that it was not involved in the sell-off negotiations but "looks on with interest".

It is thought that the bids will be submitted at around £50 million. However, some observers have suggested that figure is high, arguing that the division requires a large amount of investment. The British Railways Board refused to comment.



David Michels, right, chief executive of Stakis, with Richard Cole-Hamilton, chairman, after unveiling full-year profits of £30 million yesterday

Stakis confident of profiting from Metropole integration

By Alasdair Murray

STAKIS, the leisure company, said yesterday it was confident that the performance of the Metropole hotel group would meet or exceed forecasts made when it purchased the chain for £327 million from Lohrho at the end of October.

David Michels, chief executive, said that Stakis is aiming to add around £8 million in turnover and make £4 million of cost savings as it integrates

the hotel group this year. His comments came as the company unveiled a 23 per cent rise in full-year profits, excluding tax and exceptional items, to £30.7 million, in line with a forecast made at the time of the Metropole acquisition.

Turnover increased by 18.5 per cent, to £206 million, while the total dividend was increased by 23 per cent, to 2.15p. Profits in the hotel division excludes any contribution from Metropole, which was

purchased after the year-end of September 29, rose by 29 per cent, to £40 million. Occupancy levels increased from 72.1 per cent to 76.3 per cent, while the average room rate rose from £43.94 to £46.37. The total number of rooms increased to 5,363, spread across 42 hotels.

Stakis said that it is in the process of building new hotels in the London borough of Islington, Belfast, Dublin and Sheffield, which will add a

further 635 rooms to the division. The company added that it remained confident about the market, especially as the low level of new builds should ensure room to continue improving margins.

Profits in the casino division fell to £9 million, from £11.7 million, after the company's exit from the London market with the £27 million sale of the Barracuda in April. Stakis said its new Riverboat Casino in Glasgow had started well

and the company is aiming to roll out the concept across six new sites.

Stakis also opened new sites in Cardiff and Bournemouth during the year, and in Gibraltar. The company added that the performance of the division was now improving although it would be some time before the full potential is realised.

The health and leisure division contributed a maiden profit of £600,000 in line with company expectations. Stakis has combined the LivingWell group of clubs with its existing hotel-based health clubs and is looking to expand the concept.

Mr Michels said that overall the company believes its markets remain buoyant and can approach the future with confidence.

Shares in the company closed unchanged at 90.5p. A final dividend of 2.15p is payable next April 11.

Tempus, page 30

German trust plans to raise £6.7m

By Caroline Merrell

THE East German Investment Trust (Egit) is hoping to raise around £6.7 million through a placing of shares priced at 32p.

At the same time as raising the extra cash, the £50 million trust is also switching fund

managers, appointing Foreign & Colonial Ventures in place of Ermagessen. Ermagessen lays some of the blame for the trust's poor performance at the door of Treuband, the German privatisation agency and is suing Treuband for compensation.

Shares in the fund, launched at the beginning of 1991, now stand at 35p, around a third of the issue price. The fund was set up to invest in German privatisations. The trust says some of its problems have been caused by Treuband's failure to fulfil its promises.

The money raised through

the share placing will be used to pay the ongoing expenses of the fund. The trust's directors believe that there are prospects for achieving higher values from the current portfolio of investments.

Egit's biggest shareholders include City of London Investment and Norwich Union.

Rationing aids Eurodollar

By Fraser Nelson

THE stabilisation of the second-hand car market enabled Eurodollar, the car hire company, to double its interim profits in the six months to September 30.

However, despite the recovery in pre-tax profits to £4.76 million (£2.42 million), Eurodollar is cutting its interim dividend to 2p (3.12p), payable on January 4. The company, which

sells all of its cars less than a year after purchase, credited carmakers for the recovery in the "nearby new" market.

Ian Mosley, chief executive, said manufacturers had become concerned about the abundance of cars less than a year old in the second-hand market, and had rationed supply to companies likely to resell within nine months. He

said this had firmed the market for the 30,000 cars it sells off every year.

He said: "While the prices are not significantly better than last year, they have at least stabilised."

Eurodollar's earnings rose to 6.79p per share (3.63p). Turnover reached £54.2 million (£48.6 million). Its shares rose 1p to 120p yesterday.



Mosley: cutting dividend

Discovery backs Premier Oil's increased offer

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

DISCOVERY Petroleum, the Australian oil producer, has belatedly endorsed Premier Oil's bid for the company after the offer was increased marginally by one cent to 81 cents, valuing Discovery at A\$107.8 million (about £54 million).

Peter Jones, Discovery chairman, said: "With the increase of the Premier bid to a level which more fairly reflects the value of Discovery's shares, directors recommend acceptance of Premier's offer and intend immediately accepting for their own and their associated shareholders."

Oil Search, the oil production company based in Papua New Guinea, also said it would accept the offer in respect of its 10 per cent stake. It acquired the stake just four days after Premier launched its initial A\$92 million bid for Discovery and had been widely expected

to make a rival offer. Discovery's share fell 2 cents to 80 cents on the Australian stock exchange.

Charles Jamieson, chief executive of Premier, said: "We are delighted to have received the support of the Discovery board and look forward to working with the Discovery team in building Premier's business in the region."

The key attraction of Discovery is its stake in Indonesia's Kalap offshore oilfield, which is situated close to Premier's recently acquired interest in the West Natuna Sea block off the coast of Indonesia.

Discovery's assets also include an exploration interest in the Carnarvon Basin off the western coast of Australia, and exploration and production interests in the Perth Basin in Western Australia.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT

SESSION 1996-97

LYOUDS TSB

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application is being made to Parliament by Lloyds Bank Plc, TSB Bank plc and Hill Samuel Bank Limited for leave to introduce in the present Session a Bill under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

To provide for the transfer to and vesting in Lloyds Bank Plc of the under-takings of TSB Bank plc and Hill Samuel Bank Limited.

On and after 4th December 1996 a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at the price of £1 each at the offices of:

Lloyds Bank Plc, P.O. Box 112, Canons Way, Bristol, BS99 7LB.

TSB Bank plc, P.O. Box 6000, Victoria House, Birmingham, B1 1BZ.

Messrs Lloyds & Paines, Barrington House, 59-67 Gresham Street, London EC2V 7JA.

Messrs L'Estrange & Brett, 7 & 9 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4JC.

Messrs Dyson Bell Martin, 1 Dean Farnar Street, Westminster, London SW1H 0DY.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it. If the Bill originates in the House of Commons, the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the Private Bill Office of that House will be 30th January 1997; if it originates in the House of Lords, the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments in that House will be 6th February 1997. Further information may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords, and the offices of the under-mentioned Parliamentary Agents.

Dated 3rd December 1996

DYSON BELL MARTIN, 1 Dean Farnar Street, Westminster, London SW1H 0DY.

Parliamentary Agents

LEGAL, PUBLIC, COMPANY & PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

TO PLACE NOTICES FOR THIS SECTION PLEASE TELEPHONE

0171-782 7344 OR FAX: 0171-782 7827

Notices are subject to conditions and should be received by 2.30pm on day prior to insertion.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION

Charitable Trusts (Transfer of Undertakings) Bill 1996

Notice is hereby given that the Commission has received a petition from the Charity Commission for England and Wales, in relation to the proposed transfer of the undertaking of the Charity Commission for England and Wales, to the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

The Commission has considered the petition and has decided to grant it.

The Commission has also decided to grant the petition in relation to the proposed transfer of the undertaking of the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, to the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NEW LIMITED

ON 27th November 1996, NEW LIMITED was incorporated in England and Wales.

The registered office of NEW LIMITED is at 1, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA.

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE

COMPANIES ACT 1985, section 109, and the Companies (No. 2) Regulations 1985.

NOTICE is hereby given that the following companies have been struck off the register of companies in England and Wales:

1. The name of the company is: NEW LIMITED.

2. The registered office of the company is: 1, The Quadrant, London W1A 1AA.

3. The date of the order for striking off is: 27th November 1996.

4. The date of the order for striking off is: 27th November 1996.

5. The date of the order for striking off is: 27th November 1996.

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20. The date of the order for striking off is: 27th November 1996.

21. The date of the order for striking off is: 27th November 1996.

BTG profit comes with a warning

By Fraser Nelson

BTG, the patent licensing group, yesterday returned its first interim profit for three years, but warned shareholders that the gain was exceptional and that the underlying business was unlikely to break even for another three years.

Payments from licensees, added to an £840,000 profit from the sale of a stake in IOC International, the ARM-listed optical cable group, took revenue to £12.1 million (£8.8 million). This lifted pre-tax profits to £170,000 for the six months to September 30 against a £2.1 million loss last time.

BTG shares, floated at 225p in June 1995, eased from £25.12 to £24.37, yesterday. The company proposes splitting its shares by a factor of five, to bring them in line with normal UK prices and make them more marketable in the US.

Toy Options acquires Hong Kong group

TOY OPTIONS, the toy distribution and marketing company, stepped into the international arena yesterday with the US\$1.6 million purchase of World Wide Licences, a Hong Kong company which specialises in "near-top" products such as children's watches. World Wide holds the licences for watches based on characters from Star Wars, Looney Tunes, Batman, Superman, Dragonflyz and others, in 44 markets, including North America and Europe. The purchase price is comprised of \$750,000 in cash and \$220,000 Toy Options shares, issued at 105p each.

Toy Options reported pre-tax profits of £3.66 million in the year to August 31, up 117 per cent, on turnover that rose 34 per cent to £30.3 million. Earnings per share were 12.33p against 7.16p, and a final dividend of 2.5p, to be paid on January 31, makes the total dividend 3.5p, up 35 per cent. Mr King said that Christmas sales so far are "substantially ahead" of the corresponding period in 1995.

Tempus, page 30

Pillar agrees £35m lease

PILLAR PROPERTY INVESTMENTS plans a big City redevelopment adjoining Paternoster Square, the controversial central London site controlled by Mitsubishi Estates and which about St Paul's Cathedral. Pillar has agreed to acquire a long leasehold interest in Sudbury House for about £35 million from Magnox Electric. The Sudbury House site has planning permission for a 300,000 sq ft office building and Pillar's agreement to acquire the 200-year lease is conditional on securing a tenant for the redeveloped building.

Oriflame's Latin success

ORIFLAME INTERNATIONAL, the skincare and cosmetics group, plans to build on its success in South America by entering the Brazilian market next year. The company said yesterday that strong sales in Chile, Peru, Mexico and Ecuador helped pre-tax profit to rise 21 per cent to £9.6 million (£8 million) in the half year to September 30. Eastern Europe sales were also well ahead. Earnings per share rose 18 per cent to 14.3p. The interim dividend, due on February 13, is up 10 per cent to 5.5p.

OMI back in the black

OMI INTERNATIONAL, the measurement technology company, has returned to the black with profits of £75,000 for the six months to September 30. The company lost £2.3 million in the same period last year. Half-year sales rose by 8 per cent to £21.6 million, and gross margins improved from 21 to 25 per cent. Next month, OMI plans to amend its reserves to allow it to resume dividend payments.

Silentnight close to deal

SILENTNIGHT HOLDINGS, the bed and cabinet furniture maker, is in talks with Spring Ram about buying its Meredew Cabinets subsidiary for about £5 million. It expects to complete the purchase by the end of the month. Meredew, based in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, makes cabinet furniture for bedrooms and living rooms. It has annual sales of £7 million. Turnover of Silentnight's cabinet furniture division was £54 million last year.

Blue Circle acquisition

BLUE CIRCLE INDUSTRIES, the building materials and consumer products company, has acquired Venesta Cubicle Systems, a maker of shower, changing cubicles and washroom products, for £5.5 million. Venesta will become part of Blue Circle's bathrooms group, which already includes Armitage Shanks. Venesta, subject of a management buyout from Chime Communications in 1994, made pre-tax profits of £820,000 on turnover of £5.61 million in the year to March.

Tops Estates ahead

TOPS ESTATES, the shopping centre investment company, reported a 50 per cent improvement in first-half profits to £1.2 million. The recent refinancing of Leeds Shopping Plaza has cut group borrowing from £123 million to £46 million, reducing gearing from 124 per cent to 21 per cent. Earnings per share rose by just 9 per cent to 1.89p, because of a write-off of non-recoverable advance corporation tax. Tops will pay an interim dividend of 0.705p a share on March 28, up 5 per cent.

Seton buys Metrotop

SETON HEALTHCARE has acquired Metrotop, a gel wound treatment, from Pharmacia & Upjohn for £3.75 million. Metrotop had sales last year of £1.02 million and an operating profit of £760,000. Seton supplies wound management brands to hospitals and pharmacies in the UK. In the five years ending February this year, profits increased four times to £16.4 million. Seton said Metrotop fitted in with its existing wound dressing and infection control range.

Allen sets record

ALLEN, the construction and property group, recorded its highest pre-tax profit, up from £3.6 million to £4.71 million. Turnover was up by 31 per cent, to £71.1 million from £54.2 million, while earnings rose to 8.77p a share, from 7.30p. The dividend is increased from 2.46p to 3.09p a share. Donald Greenhalgh, chairman, said he was pleased the pre-tax profit was an all-time record, with the operating profits of the company's five sectors exceeding the first half of the year.

0990 29 79 79

[illegible]

Gilts up, equities down

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES									
1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	PE			
556	415	410	Adnoca Corp	415.00	-2.2	12.1			
625	417	412	Adnoca Corp	417.00	-2.2	12.1			
626	418	413	Adnoca Corp	418.00	-2.2	12.1			
627	419	414	Adnoca Corp	419.00	-2.2	12.1			
628	420	415	Adnoca Corp	420.00	-2.2	12.1			
629	421	416	Adnoca Corp	421.00	-2.2	12.1			
630	422	417	Adnoca Corp	422.00	-2.2	12.1			
631	423	418	Adnoca Corp	423.00	-2.2	12.1			
632	424	419	Adnoca Corp	424.00	-2.2	12.1			
633	425	420	Adnoca Corp	425.00	-2.2	12.1			
634	426	421	Adnoca Corp	426.00	-2.2	12.1			
635	427	422	Adnoca Corp	427.00	-2.2	12.1			
636	428	423	Adnoca Corp	428.00	-2.2	12.1			
637	429	424	Adnoca Corp	429.00	-2.2	12.1			
638	430	425	Adnoca Corp	430.00	-2.2	12.1			
639	431	426	Adnoca Corp	431.00	-2.2	12.1			
640	432	427	Adnoca Corp	432.00	-2.2	12.1			
641	433	428	Adnoca Corp	433.00	-2.2	12.1			
642	434	429	Adnoca Corp	434.00	-2.2	12.1			
643	435	430	Adnoca Corp	435.00	-2.2	12.1			
644	436	431	Adnoca Corp	436.00	-2.2	12.1			
645	437	432	Adnoca Corp	437.00	-2.2	12.1			
646	438	433	Adnoca Corp	438.00	-2.2	12.1			
647	439	434	Adnoca Corp	439.00	-2.2	12.1			
648	440	435	Adnoca Corp	440.00	-2.2	12.1			
649	441	436	Adnoca Corp	441.00	-2.2	12.1			
650	442	437	Adnoca Corp	442.00	-2.2	12.1			
651	443	438	Adnoca Corp	443.00	-2.2	12.1			
652	444	439	Adnoca Corp	444.00	-2.2	12.1			
653	445	440	Adnoca Corp	445.00	-2.2	12.1			
654	446	441	Adnoca Corp	446.00	-2.2	12.1			
655	447	442	Adnoca Corp	447.00	-2.2	12.1			
656	448	443	Adnoca Corp	448.00	-2.2	12.1			
657	449	444	Adnoca Corp	449.00	-2.2	12.1			
658	450	445	Adnoca Corp	450.00	-2.2	12.1			
659	451	446	Adnoca Corp	451.00	-2.2	12.1			
660	452	447	Adnoca Corp	452.00	-2.2	12.1			
661	453	448	Adnoca Corp	453.00	-2.2	12.1			
662	454	449	Adnoca Corp	454.00	-2.2	12.1			
663	455	450	Adnoca Corp	455.00	-2.2	12.1			
664	456	451	Adnoca Corp	456.00	-2.2	12.1			
665	457	452	Adnoca Corp	457.00	-2.2	12.1			
666	458	453	Adnoca Corp	458.00	-2.2	12.1			
667	459	454	Adnoca Corp	459.00	-2.2	12.1			
668	460	455	Adnoca Corp	460.00	-2.2	12.1			
669	461	456	Adnoca Corp	461.00	-2.2	12.1			
670	462	457	Adnoca Corp	462.00	-2.2	12.1			
671	463	458	Adnoca Corp	463.00	-2.2	12.1			
672	464	459	Adnoca Corp	464.00	-2.2	12.1			
673	465	460	Adnoca Corp	465.00	-2.2	12.1			
674	466	461	Adnoca Corp	466.00	-2.2	12.1			
675	467	462	Adnoca Corp	467.00	-2.2	12.1			
676	468	463	Adnoca Corp	468.00	-2.2	12.1			
677	469	464	Adnoca Corp	469.00	-2.2	12.1			
678	470	465	Adnoca Corp	470.00	-2.2	12.1			
679	471	466	Adnoca Corp	471.00	-2.2	12.1			
680	472	467	Adnoca Corp	472.00	-2.2	12.1			
681	473	468	Adnoca Corp	473.00	-2.2	12.1			
682	474	469	Adnoca Corp	474.00	-2.2	12.1			
683	475	470	Adnoca Corp	475.00	-2.2	12.1			
684	476	471	Adnoca Corp	476.00	-2.2	12.1			
685	477	472	Adnoca Corp	477.00	-2.2	12.1			
686	478	473	Adnoca Corp	478.00	-2.2	12.1			
687	479	474	Adnoca Corp	479.00	-2.2	12.1			
688	480	475	Adnoca Corp	480.00	-2.2	12.1			
689	481	476	Adnoca Corp	481.00	-2.2	12.1			
690	482	477	Adnoca Corp	482.00	-2.2	12.1			
691	483	478	Adnoca Corp	483.00	-2.2	12.1			
692	484	479	Adnoca Corp	484.00	-2.2	12.1			
693	485	480	Adnoca Corp	485.00	-2.2	12.1			
694	486	481	Adnoca Corp	486.00	-2.2	12.1			
695	487	482	Adnoca Corp	487.00	-2.2	12.1			
696	488	483	Adnoca Corp	488.00	-2.2	12.1			
697	489	484	Adnoca Corp	489.00	-2.2	12.1			
698	490	485	Adnoca Corp	490.00	-2.2	12.1			
699	491	486	Adnoca Corp	491.00	-2.2	12.1			
700	492	487	Adnoca Corp	492.00	-2.2	12.1			
701	493	488	Adnoca Corp	493.00	-2.2	12.1			
702	494	489	Adnoca Corp	494.00	-2.2	12.1			
703	495	490	Adnoca Corp	495.00	-2.2	12.1			
704	496	491	Adnoca Corp	496.00	-2.2	12.1			
705	497	492	Adnoca Corp	497.00	-2.2	12.1			
706	498	493	Adnoca Corp	498.00	-2.2	12.1			
707	499	494	Adnoca Corp	499.00	-2.2	12.1			
708	500	495	Adnoca Corp	500.00	-2.2	12.1			
709	501	496	Adnoca Corp	501.00	-2.2	12.1			
710	502	497	Adnoca Corp	502.00	-2.2	12.1			
711	503	498	Adnoca Corp	503.00	-2.2	12.1			
712	504	499	Adnoca Corp	504.00	-2.2	12.1			
713	505	500	Adnoca Corp	505.00	-2.2	12.1			
714	506	501	Adnoca Corp	506.00	-2.2	12.1			
715	507	502	Adnoca Corp	507.00	-2.2	12.1			
716	508	503	Adnoca Corp	508.00	-2.2	12.1			
717	509	504	Adnoca Corp	509.00	-2.2	12.1			
718	510	505	Adnoca Corp	510.00	-2.2	12.1			
719	511	506	Adnoca Corp	511.00	-2.2	12.1			
720	512	507	Adnoca Corp	512.00	-2.2	12.1			
721	513	508	Adnoca Corp	513.00	-2.2	12.1			
722	514	509	Adnoca Corp	514.00	-2.2	12.1			
723	515	510	Adnoca Corp	515.00	-2.2	12.1			
724	516	511	Adnoca Corp	516.00	-2.2	12.1			
725	517	512	Adnoca Corp	517.00	-2.2	12.1			
726	518	513	Adnoca Corp	518.00	-2.2	12.1			
727	519	514	Adnoca Corp	519.00	-2.2	12.1			
728	520	515	Adnoca Corp	520.00	-2.2	12.1			
729	521	516	Adnoca Corp	521.00	-2.2	12.1			
730	522	517	Adnoca Corp	522.00	-2.2	12.1			
731	523	518	Adnoca Corp	523.00	-2.2	12.1			
732	524	519	Adnoca Corp	524.00	-2.2	12.1			
733	525	520	Adnoca Corp	525.00	-2.2	12.1			
734	526	521	Adnoca Corp	526.00	-2.2	12.1			
735	527	522	Adnoca Corp	527.00	-2.2	12.1			
736	528	523	Adnoca Corp	528.00	-2.2	12.1			
737	529	524	Adnoca Corp	529.00	-2.2	12.1			
738	530	525	Adnoca Corp	530.00	-2.2	12.1			
739	531	526	Adnoca Corp	531.00	-2.2	12.1			
740	532	527	Adnoca Corp	532.00	-2.2	12.1			
741	533	528	Adnoca Corp	533.00	-2.2	12.1			
742	534	529	Adnoca Corp	534.00	-2.2	12.1			
743	535	530	Adnoca Corp	535.00	-2.2	12.1			
744	536	531	Adnoca Corp	536.00	-2.2	12.1			
745	537	532	Adnoca Corp	537.00	-2.2	12.1			
746	538	533	Adnoca Corp	538.00	-2.2	12.1			
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748	540	535	Adnoca Corp	540.00	-2.2	12.1			
749	541	536	Adnoca Corp	541.00	-2.2	12.1			
750	542	537	Adnoca Corp	542.00	-2.2	12.1			
751	543	538	Adnoca Corp	543.00	-2.2	12.1			
752	544	539	Adnoca Corp	544.00	-2.2	12.1			
753	545	540	Adnoca Corp	545.00	-2.2	12.1			
754	546	541	Adnoca Corp	546.00	-2.2	12.1			
755	547	542	Adnoca Corp	547.00	-2.2	12.1			
756	548	543	Adnoca Corp	548.00	-2.2	12.1			
757	549	544	Adnoca Corp	549.00	-2.2	12.1			
758	550	545	Adnoca Corp	550.00	-2.2	12.1			
759	551	546	Adnoca Corp	551.00	-2.2	12.1			
760	552	547	Adnoca Corp	552.00	-2.2	12.1			
761	553	548	Adnoca Corp	553.00	-2.2	12.1			
762	554	549	Adnoca Corp	554.00	-2.2	12.1			
763	555	550	Adnoca Corp	555.00	-2.2	12.1			
764	556	551	Adnoca Corp	556.00	-2.2	12.1			
765	557	552	Adnoca Corp	557.00	-2.2	12.1			
766	558	553	Adnoca Corp	558.00	-2.2	12.1			
767	559	554	Adnoca Corp	559.00	-2.2	12.1			
768	560	555	Adnoca Corp	560.00	-2.2	12.1			
769	561	556	Adnoca Corp	561.00	-2.2	12.1			
770	562	557	Adnoca Corp	562.00	-2.2	12.1			
771	563	558	Adnoca Corp	563.00	-2.2	12.1			
772	564	559	Adnoca Corp	564.00	-2.2	12.1			
773	565	560	Adnoca Corp	565.00	-2.2	12.1			
774	566	561	Adnoca Corp	566.00	-2.2	12.1			
775	567	562	Adnoca Corp	567.00	-2.2	12.1			
776	568	563	Adnoca Corp	568.00	-2.2	12.1			
777	569	564	Adnoca Corp	569.00	-2.2	12.1			
778	570	565	Adnoca Corp	570.00	-2.2	12.1			
779	571	566	Adnoca Corp	571.00	-2.2	12.1			
780	572	567	Adnoca Corp	572.00	-2.2	12.1			
781	573	568	Adnoca Corp	573.00	-2.2	12.1			
782	574	569	Adnoca Corp	574.00	-2.2	12.1			
783	575	570	Adnoca Corp	575.00	-2.2	12.1			
784	576	571	Adnoca Corp	576.00	-2.2	12.1			
785	577	572	Adnoca Corp	577.00	-2.2	12.1			
786	578	573	Adnoca Corp	578.00	-2.2	12.1			
787	579	574	Adnoca Corp	579.00	-2.2	12.1			
788	580	575	Adnoca Corp	580.00	-2.2	12.1			
789	581	576	Adnoca Corp	581.00	-2.2	12.1			
790	582	577	Adnoca Corp	582.00	-2.2	12.1			
791	583	578	Adnoca Corp	583.00	-2.2	12.1			
792	584	579	Adnoca Corp	584.00	-2.2	12.1			
793	585	580	Adnoca Corp	585.00	-2.2	12.1			
794	586	581	Adnoca Corp	586.00	-2.2	12.1			
795	587	582	Adnoca Corp	587.00	-2.2	12.1			
796	588	583	Adnoca Corp	588.00	-2.2	12.1			
797	589	584	Adnoca Corp	589.00	-2.2	12.1			

LAW

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Stephen Jacobi reports on the lorry drivers caught up in the drugs trade



Waiting game: Steve Bryant's father Peter reads a letter from his son while Damaris Neale (right), Mickey Chinnick's fiancée, prepares to visit him in jail

A case of rough justice

Steve Bryant, a 42-year-old lorry driver and father of four, went on a hunger strike in his squalid Tangerine jail cell on November 1 in an attempt to secure better conditions. He finally ended it last week when he heard his demands were to be met and that his appeal would be expedited.

But such a victory brings little comfort when you face rough justice. He was arrested in January 1994 when cannabis was found under a consignment of frozen squid which was loaded into his trailer in his absence. For this he received the maximum jail term of ten years.

In Morocco, it is no defence to say that you were unaware that drugs were in your load. Only the French get remission because of their prisoner transfer scheme with Morocco.

In Bulgaria, two British drivers, Peter Hobbs and John Mills, from east London, are waiting to hear the result of their final appeal to the Supreme Court in Sofia. They were arrested on the Turkish border in 1995 after 20kg of heroin was found in an unlocked tool compartment on the outside of their rig to which anyone could have had

access. Their trial was reduced to the level of farce when the judge realised there was going to be a potential conflict of interest between them. A new lawyer was appointed but the case continued without the lawyer being given the opportunity to take instructions. They were sentenced to 7½ years in jail.

Two years earlier, in 1993, Mickey Chinnick, a 35-year-old driver from Scarborough, North Yorkshire, was arrested on the Turkish side of the border in disturbingly similar circumstances. He too, carried a consignment of motor vehicle spare parts to Turkey

from Britain and was ordered back via the same route with his empty lorry to pick up another load in Romania.

This time 7.5kg of heroin was found in an outer tool compartment of his vehicle. He has just completed his sentence of 3½ years. But despite being in poor health after a major operation, he is now serving an additional three years because he has no money to pay the £5,000 fine imposed on him.

It seems likely that these three cases are linked. "Piggy-back" smuggling — where drugs gangs use a consigned package attached to the outer

part of a vehicle to smuggle illegal substances across frontiers without involving the driver — is a well-known and regular play.

The parcel is often strapped to the bottom of a coach in which the real couriers are passengers. Two weeks ago Clive Brown, a driver from Crayford, Kent, was cleared of a charge of smuggling 10kg of heroin into Britain, which was found strapped to the belly tank of his trailer. He, too, was returning from Romania.

There are encouraging signs that European Union law enforcement authorities are beginning to take drivers' vulnerability in these circumstances very seriously.

A partnership to educate these authorities and drivers' organisations on the dangers they face has been formed by the Fair Trials Abroad Trust and the Committee of Transport Workers in the EC, with the approval of the World Customs Organisation in Brussels.

Outside the EU, however, the situation remains bleak, with no end in sight for the British, Dutch and German drivers held in Morocco, Turkey and the old Soviet empire. Most of the problems stem from ignorance and unfair

application of the law. Tachometers, known as the "spy in the cab", provide useful evidence of unauthorised lengthy stops or detours. Outside the EU, however, it is common for such evidence to be disregarded because lawyers and enforcement officers do not understand it.

There is widespread ignorance of transport industrial practice and the civilised judicial concept of the necessity of a guilty mind for an offence to be committed is disregarded in drivers' offences. The driver is, therefore, dependent on political and diplomatic pressure for fair consideration of his case before or after conviction. He is indeed out in the cold.

The State's word is not good enough

Last month the European Court of Human Rights decided that the United Kingdom would be acting in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights were it to remove Karamjit Chahal to India, the country of which he is a citizen. The judgment will encourage British judges no longer to accept uncritically whatever they are told by the executive about the demands of national security.

The Home Secretary wished to deport Mr Chahal to India on national security grounds because of his alleged involvement in international terrorism on behalf of militant Sikh separatist groups. Mr Chahal denied having any link with terrorist activities, and claimed that if he returned to India he would suffer persecution for political reasons.

The European Court accepted that there was a real risk that Mr Chahal would be killed, or seriously injured, in India by members of the police or security forces because of his political opinions. Article 3 of the Convention prohibits torture, or inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The court has previously held that Article 3 prevents a state from returning a person to another country in which such adverse treatment may be suffered.

The court decided, in Mr Chahal's case, that Article 3 is absolute, and so the United Kingdom cannot rely on its national security concerns, whether or not they are justified.

The removal of the power of a government to expel a person, whatever the danger to national security, is of fundamental significance. But of even greater practical importance are the court's findings that the United Kingdom was also in breach of the Convention by failing to adopt adequate domestic judicial procedures.

In recent years, judicial review has expanded to empower judges to consider the legality, fairness and rationality of aspects of government which, a generation ago, would have been universally acknowledged to be none of the judiciary's business. The final frontier over which the judiciary remains unwilling to pass is "national security". These words retain a mystical significance as an incantation, the utterance of which prompts our judges to assert a self-denying ordinance which deters them from assessing the propriety of executive action.

When the Crown says that a decision was taken on grounds of national security, the court will question neither the veracity nor the reasonableness of that statement. Moreover, the individual has no right to know details of the allegations if the executive asserts that such disclosure will itself harm national

security by betraying confidential sources.

For these reasons, the English courts did not require the Home Secretary to produce evidence to support his assertion that Mr Chahal was a danger to national security. Because judicial review involves no consideration at all of the substance of the national security contentions advanced by the executive, the European Court held that the United Kingdom had breached Mr Chahal's Convention rights under Article 5.4 (the right to have the lawfulness of detention determined by a national court) and Article 13 (the right to an effective domestic remedy).

The court rightly recognised that there are difficulties in reconciling the demands of national security with the rights of the individual. However, as it pointed out, some judicial protection can be given without harm to national security. The court referred to the Canadian approach of conducting a private hearing from which the applicant is excluded but is represented by a security-cleared counsel appointed by the judiciary.

In the United Kingdom, senior judges (who are also Privy Counsellors) perform sensitive security functions out of court, for example as the Security Service Commissioner and as the chairman of the tribunal responsible for considering complaints about the Security Service. In a judicial review involving national security, judges should provide the executive to provide the court (though not the applicant) with information which would enable the judges to reach an informed conclusion on whether the decision has been made lawfully, fairly and reasonably. The defect in English law, at present, is that no judicial effort is made to consider the reasonableness and fairness of the executive's reliance on national security considerations.

The conduct of the security services may not have any resemblance to the inefficiency and abuse of power portrayed in John le Carré's latest spy novel, *The Tailor of Panama*. But when civil servants know that they will not have to justify their claims to a court, there is a real risk that decision-making will lack the care and the respect for human rights which the context requires.

Judges should continue to defer to the executive, but only after satisfying themselves that there were proper and reasonable evidential grounds for the impugned decision. Whatever threat to national security may be posed by Mr Chahal, it is no secret that his success in Strasbourg will improve English law.

The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford



COUNSEL

DAVID PANNICK QC

The Times Law Awards 1996



THERE is still time to enter the competition for *The Times* Law Awards 1996 with One Essex Court and win up to £3,000.

Students are invited to submit up to 1,000 words on "The Law Lords in the 90s — a New Supreme Court?". The first prize is £3,000, the second £2,000 and the third £1,000. Three runners-up will receive £250. The essays will be judged by a panel led by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, and the winning entry will be published in *The Times*.

Further details can be obtained by ringing 0171-583 2000. The closing date is Friday.

Rights are wrong...

SOLICITORS don't want advocacy rights — it's official. More than 25 per cent of City law firms see no use for solicitor advocates, and more than half are against the establishment of independent ones. Seventy-five per cent of the 46 firms in a survey by the City of London Solicitors' Company said there was a case for solicitor advocates but only 13 per cent favoured in-house-advocacy units.

Carol concert

CAROLS will be sung in law courts again this year to raise funds for the Citizens Advice Bureau in the Royal Courts of Justice. The Treasury Singers, conducted by Edward Adams, an official in the Lord Chancellor's Department, will perform in the Royal Courts of Justice at lunchtime on December 12. A collection is made for the CAB in the RCJ, which is run as a charitable trust. The bureau now has a special project to support litigants who do not have a lawyer — in line with proposals from Lord Justice Ognon. The scheme is manned partly by

staff paid for by the Lord Chancellor's Department, and partly by volunteer lawyers.

Party pooper

LAW firms are already giving warnings of the perils of Christmas parties. The employment unit at Franks Chastley & Co is telling clients to think twice about which entertainers they invite to their company's Christmas party. The advice follows the landmark ruling that a hotel group was liable for the offend-



Manning, offended staff

sive remarks the comedian Bernard Manning made to two of its waitresses during a function.

"To protect themselves against expensive claims and to help all of their staff have a good time every employer should bear this case in mind when planning its Christmas or other parties," says a bulletin issued by the London firm.

Tough love

PARENTS who find their children seized in the trauma of a "rug of love" case can obtain advice in a new booklet launched by Gary Streeter, Minister in the Lord Chancellor's Department. Parents "in this traumatic situation have speedy access to the professional advice and guidance they need," he said. Details from the Child Abduction Unit: 0171-911 7047.

Growing pains

THE workload at Tower Hamlets Barristers' Chambers off Brick Lane has increased so much that the chambers has now opened an

annexe. David Penny-Davey, QC, Bar chairman, said at its recent opening that there was a need for such a chambers outside the Inns of Court to improve access to justice, irrespective of caste, creed, colour or economic status. The chambers and annexe are located in a densely populated Bangladeshi community. It gives free advice on Saturday mornings.

Record time

IS THIS a record? Those who complain that solicitors are slow with wills and conveyancing might note that Edge & Ellison did its bit in a multi-million-dollar company sale in 53 hours.

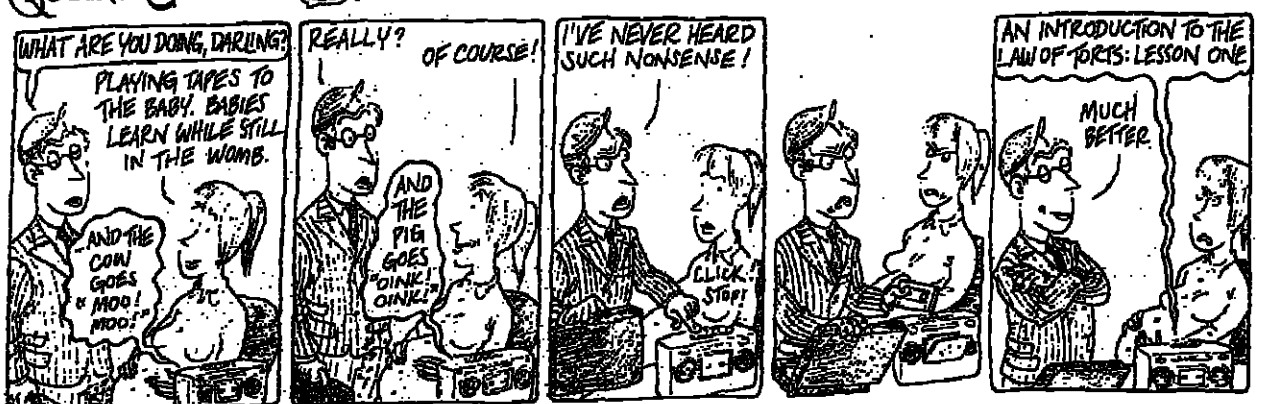
Computervision Corporation, of Massachusetts, sold its Open Service Solutions division to J.F. Lehman, another American company, for £65 million cash, plus several millions more in preferred shares and warrants to buy shares.

David Hull, leader of the team at Edge & Ellison, of Birmingham, London and Leicester, said: "We received instructions at 4.30pm on the Wednesday and completed the work for the disposal of the UK interests in the division by 10pm on the Friday."

SCRIVENOR

STUART & FRANCIS

QUEEN'S COUNSEL



LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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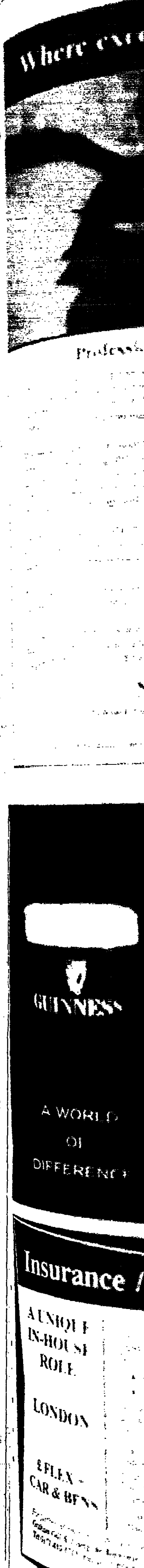
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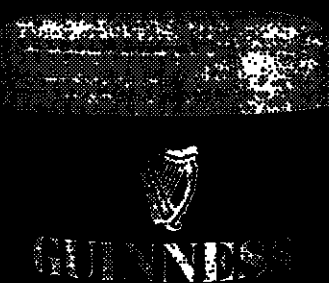
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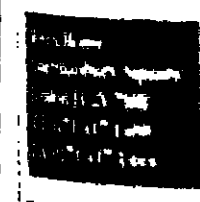
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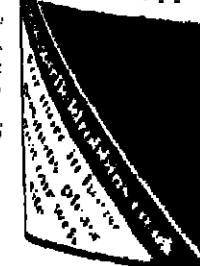
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Should Christians keep rights denied to others, asks John Rubinstein

Blasphemy and freedom of expression

Last week, after a six-year fight, Nigel Wingrove, the film-maker, scored an own goal for those vigorously promoting freedom of artistic expression under the European Convention on Human Rights.

The majority ruling by the European Court of Human Rights, upheld the British Board of Film Classification's (BBFC) decision to refuse a certificate for release of his 18-minute video film *Visions of Ecstasy* — on grounds, among others, that it contained blasphemous material.

The ruling came as no surprise to Mr Wingrove. So why did he bring his case? The question of whether the UK was violating the convention by resurrecting archaic blasphemy laws had already been considered by the commission in the case of *Gay News Ltd v UK* in 1982. It took the view that our blasphemy laws, and blasphemous libel in particular, were sufficiently certain and that they had as their main purpose the protection of the rights of others (albeit Christians). The case was therefore not referred to the court.

In Mr Wingrove's case, the commission relied on its *Gay News* decision and expressly rejected Mr Wingrove's main argument that blasphemy was too imprecise and indeterminate and that its use did not constitute a legitimate aim which justified the Government banning the video.

But the commission did distinguish his video from the film which came before the court in the case *Christy v Austria* (1994). By 14 to two, they held that the refusal of a certificate for Mr Wingrove's video was a disproportionate interference with the right to freedom of expression, given the likely extent of distribution and public performances of a video work compared with a film. De-

spite the majority view of the commission on proportionality, the court maintained its non-interventionist view on blasphemy and ruled that the policing of videos in a market difficult to control should be left to national states who "are better placed than the European Court to make an assessment of a video's likely impact".

What is the result? Paradoxically, English blasphemy law has derived new vigour. And if Mr Wingrove is unwilling to risk prosecution for blasphemy before a jury, the public is not going to know whether the work had artistic merit or whether the film would outrage Christians, as the BBFC suggested.

The case was trumpeted as a challenge to blasphemy laws — but that issue was lost in 1982 when the commission blocked *Gay News*'s access to the European Court, an opinion endorsed by the court in *Preminger* as well as *Wingrove*.

Reform will come only if Parliament tackles the issue. The case was therefore not referred to the court. In Mr Wingrove's case, the commission relied on its *Gay News* decision and expressly rejected Mr Wingrove's main argument that blasphemy was too imprecise and indeterminate and that its use did not constitute a legitimate aim which justified the Government banning the video.

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St Teresa of Avila, who is depicted in *Visions of Ecstasy*

the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputations or rights of others."

He considered that practitioners of religions other than Christianity should have parallel protection but did not say which should qualify, and English courts have been condemnatory of certain creeds considered to be exploitative cults.

Over centuries artists have depicted on canvas or on stage Christ's humiliation in multitudes of scenes of crucifixion and the descent from the Cross. Their message to Christians is to overcome that vilification and to have the strength of faith. No Christian's beliefs should be overcome by salacious or offensive films such as

Visions of Ecstasy, which depicts St Teresa of Avila in erotic scenes with the crucified Christ, given that crucial to the story of Christ are His triumphs over vilification and ultimate humiliation in the week leading to His death on the Cross.

Instead of relying on the European Court, Mr Wingrove might have been better spending six years lobbying Parliament to enact the Law Commission's 1985 recommendation to abolish blasphemy; or to amend the Public Order Acts so that the law, through juries, should only constrain artistic (or other) expressions where they are likely to incite practitioners of religion to acts of violence or mayhem.

The author is head of the Intellectual Property and Media group of Manches & Co.

Profits that mean a loss

The Chancellor's proposals to phase out tax relief for profit-related pay (PRP) could cost some legal firms as much as £10,000 in profits per equity partner annually from January 1, 2000.

At present, PRP paid to an employee under a scheme registered by the Inland Revenue is free of income tax up to the lower limit of £4,000, or 20 per cent of the employee's annual salary.

Some legal firms have, therefore, established PRP schemes and substituted part of their employees' existing pay with PRP up to the maximum limits allowed. Because the PRP is tax-free, the staff enjoy a rise in take-home pay of up to 6 per cent, while the firm itself does not suffer any increase in its payroll costs.

The cost savings which can be achieved are often substantial and PRP schemes are becoming increasingly popular. There are now some 14,000 registered schemes in the UK covering more than 3.7 million employees.

But although the full impact of the Chancellor's proposals will

PRP schemes pose a taxing problem, says Michael Rogerson

not bite until 2000, staff could be taking home less pay as early as January 1, 1998, when the current £4,000 limit is halved to £2,000.

For a higher-rate taxpayer, the loss in pay will be about £67 a month and firms are likely to find they have to increase gross pay to compensate for this loss so that salaries remain competitive in the marketplace.

To compensate a higher-rate taxpayer fully will cost the firm an additional £122 a month, or almost £1,500 a year, including employers' National Insurance contributions. Even for a basic-rate taxpayer, the annual cost will be almost £700 a year.

Multiplying this by the total

number of employees is a sobering experience — and there's worse to come. After January 1, 1999, tax relief declines again as the limit is halved to £1,000.

The relief will be eliminated altogether for profit periods starting on or after January 1, 2000. At this point, based on current tax rates, the additional cost will be approaching £3,000 a year for higher-rate employees and £1,400 for those paying tax at the basic rate.

Take a 60-partner firm with, say, five staff per partner, of whom two pay higher-rate tax. It could face additional payroll costs of more than £600,000 a year, or put another way, £10,000 per equity partner.

But firms without an existing PRP scheme still have time to establish one before January 1, 1998, to benefit from the current level of tax relief and make substantial savings in payroll costs during the transitional period.

The author is a partner at Grant Thornton, chartered accountants, and heads the firm's legal group.

Rules that tie you in knots

Chris Barton explains some bewildering marriage laws



LAST WEEK the General Synod of the Church of England decided to abolish the most well-known of all marriage preliminaries: the reading of the banns.

For many of the 600,000 or so who take the plunge annually, the three successive Sundays of church weddings are as traditional as those between sentence and execution. Yet as long ago as 1973, the Law Commission pointed out that hardly any of those who wed understood the system — and that their ignorance was shared by many of those who administer it.

Such negligence is unremarkable, given the bewildering abundance of routes to wedlock available under the Marriage Acts 1949-96. The next best-known preliminary is probably the least used: the Archbishop of Canterbury's Special Licence is obtained annually by a handful of couples from someone called the Master of Faculties, and is used to validate

Anglican marriages held in such places as Oxbridge college chapels. Many people who are under the impression that they married by way of this romantic-sounding if esoteric document actually made do with a Superintendent Registrar's Certificate with Licence. This certificate circumvents the supposed policy of wedding law by allowing the ceremony to go ahead one day after it is obtained.

Since 1753, that supposed policy has been to prevent clandestine and hurried weddings. Another purpose of Lord Hardwick's Act of

that year was to disallow "common law" marriages — unions created by an informal exchange of vows. Unfortunately, a large number of people suffer under the misapprehension that they are legally married to their "meaningful other" — consequently suffering disillusion on break-up when their solicitors explain no marriage, no divorce, no financial relief.

Now that the banns are to go, thereby ruining plots as well loved as those of *Jane Eyre* and that vintage episode of *The Likely Lads*, their demise will at least be in line with the current policy of encouraging marriage by enlivening, and shortening, the ceremony.

The Marriage Act 1994 has added stately homes and football grounds to the churches, register offices, prisons and deathbeds previously permitted. And more recently, the Marriage Ceremony (Prescribed Words) Act 1996 has drastically cut the minimum number of words required in the civil vows to a mere 34 per party — though retaining the option of saying "thee" rather than "you" to one's beloved.

The author, Professor of Family Law at Staffordshire University, plighted his own truth by way of a Superintendent's Certificate with Licence.

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COURT OF APPEAL - JUDICIAL ASSISTANTS

The Court of Appeal has asked the General Council of the Bar and the Law Society to put forward 12 candidates each for newly created temporary posts as judicial assistants to work alongside Lords Justices on applications for leave to appeal in civil cases.

Appointments are for three months, or a law term (Easter/Trinity counting as one term). The first judicial assistants candidates will start from 13 January 1997. Further appointments will be made thereafter as part of a rolling programme.

The first candidates will be required to produce written summaries of cases and the nature of the application, to identify key documents, to research and to present the applicable statute and case law and to discuss the cases with the Lords Justices.

Each appointment will be made on the basis of two and a half days a week, with flexibility as to whether those half days are continuous or spread across different mornings, afternoons or evenings. Remuneration of £58.71 a day is offered.

The General Council of the Bar and the Law Society are looking to identify bright practitioners who have completed twelve months' traineeship/pupillage and who can demonstrate: very high intellectual ability; incisiveness; concision and articulacy; an ability to identify the relevant issues; an ability to work under pressure and as part of a team; and computer literacy.

Those who have already applied to either the Bar or the Law Society need not apply again. A tight timetable applies. Solicitors should make their applications in writing to: Suzanne Burn, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL. Barristers should make their applications to Christopher Clarke QC, Brick Court Chambers, 15/19 Devereux Court, London WC2R 3JJ, tel 0171 583 0777, fax 0171 583 9401.

All applications must be received by 9 December 1996.

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For further details please contact Fiona Boxall or send her your CV.

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You'll find this dynamic, progressive organisation extremely employee-aware; it offers a vast range of facilities and you can expect an excellent salary. In all, this will be an outstanding career move.



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This leading commercial law firm is looking for a senior fee earner/partner elect or salaried partner to join its highly respected construction litigation group. A following would be preferred but is not essential. Ref: 325JF

► **Commercial/Competition** London
This large and friendly commercial practice has an opening for a company/commercial lawyer with competition experience to undertake transaction work, distribution, agency, franchising, licensing, consumer credit, import/export agreements, M&A's and JV's. Ref: 1234JF

► **Commercial Property (recently qualified)** Cambridge
This top Cambridge commercial firm has an opening in its high quality team for a solicitor, newly to 1 year qualified, with good academic and property experience during training. Ref: 1221AF

► **Employment (head of department)** Crawley
This highly respected commercial practice already handles a substantial employment caseload and is now seeking an experienced, motivated lawyer to head up and develop a new specialist dept at or near partnership level. Ref: 2057AF

► **Corporate (Partner Level)** Thames Valley
Experienced corporate lawyer required to join a national practice to handle a challenging workload. Ref: 2871AF

► **Public Sector** London
International firm seeks 1-2 years qualified solicitor with central or local Government experience gained in a firm advising public sector organisations. Ref: 725JF

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► **Junior Construction Lawyer** Singapore
Top City firm is looking to recruit a 1-2 years qualified construction lawyer with both contentious and non-contentious experience. Ref: 26590L

► **French Banking/Corporate Lawyer** Paris
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► **IP - Entertainments Industry** Switzerland
European multinational requires a 2-4 years qualified lawyer with extensive IP (particularly trade marks) experience. Ref: 495NT

► **Asset Finance** Frankfurt
Major European firm, staffed by English and German lawyers, needs several aircraft finance lawyers, 2-4 years qualified. Ref: 23490L

► **Senior North European Qualified Counsel** London
This global communications company is looking for a telecoms lawyer, ideally 8+ years qualified in Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium etc to join a small and respected in-house team. Ref: 2918NT

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PENSIONS

Pre-emptive City firm seeks assistance with around 1 year's relevant experience to join highly regarded pensions team. You will have an excellent academic background and must be able to demonstrate a thorough working knowledge of the pensions regime as you will be drafting and advising on new schemes, amending existing schemes and providing expert support on high profile corporate transactions. Busy, close knit team, offering excellent training. (Ref: 8508)

INSURANCE LITIGATION

Leading City litigation practice seeks defendant insurance lawyers at around the 2-4 year level with demonstrable expertise in product liability, professional indemnity and/or reinsurance disputes. The firm has a sophisticated approach to training which means its lawyers develop much more than just their technical legal skills. If you are feeling undervalued at your current firm perhaps you should consider this exceptional opportunity. (Ref: 8559)

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City firm with impressive global client base seeks a commercially astute EC competition lawyer with partnership aspirations and at least three years' relevant ppe. You will be based in London as part of a dynamic, well managed team and may come either from another City or equivalent provincial practice or be returning from Brussels. Excellent prospects. Top City salary package. (Ref: 8592)

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City firm with broad domestic and international client base has recently launched a dedicated construction practice and now seeks a 1-4 years qualified solicitor to join the team. Ideally with a background in contentious work, you must be able to demonstrate a genuine interest in the building industry and the ability to dispense unprejudiced solutions oriented advice. (Ref: 8077)

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EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION

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C.2 YEARS PQE

Leading broadcaster requires team solicitor with around 2 years' post-qualification experience in employment litigation. Caseload will encompass unfair and wrongful dismissal, harassment and discrimination cases. You must have solid experience in these areas and must demonstrate a good working knowledge of industrial Tribunal practice and procedure. For further information please speak to Carmel Murphy. (Ref: 8608)

NON FEE-EARNING/CORPORATE

City based leading UK law firm seeks 3-10 year qualified solicitor/barrister for 6 month contract. Ideally looking for experience of company/commercial matters as well as precedent drafting and marketing. Candidates will work within the corporate department and be fully integrated into the team. Ref: 33557

PRIVATE CLIENT

City firm requires 3-6 year qualified solicitor to assist partner with trust and probate matters. Contract is to start as soon as possible until March 1997, on a part-time, 3 day a week basis. Ref: 34334

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Regional office of high profile international law firm requires a 2-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister. Need has arisen due to heavy workload. Contract to start as soon as possible for 3 months plus. Ref: 29763

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SECURITIES

Well-established finance house seeks an experienced banking lawyer, with securities experience, to cover for a 6-9 month maternity leave, to start in December. Financial services and/or investment banking experience would be useful. Ref: 32577

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL

2-4 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed to join major US leisure group for 6 month contract. Work will be broad ranging, including commercial contracts, marketing, litigation, and competition law. Candidates must have good interpersonal skills, be a team player and PC literate. Ref: 33166

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3-8 year qualified solicitor required to assist major insurance company in their London office. Experience of large defendant personal injury caseload, including road traffic accidents, and employers liability necessary, plus ability to work on a completely unsupervised basis. Immediate start for 2-3 months. Ref: 34328

COMMERCIAL

3-4 year qualified solicitor/barrister needed for 1 year contract with international company in their London office. Candidates must have heavyweight in-house experience and be able to assist on a broad range of commercial matters. Ref: 33502

EMPLOYMENT LITIGATION

Major house hold name seeks 3-8 year qualified solicitor/barrister to assist busy team. Work will be broad ranging, covering a wide variety of employment litigation. Candidates must be able to start immediately for about 3 months. Ref: 34343

NON FEE-EARNING/CORPORATE

City based leading UK law firm seeks 3-10 year qualified solicitor/barrister for 6 month contract. Ideally looking for experience of company/commercial matters as well as precedent drafting and marketing. Candidates will work within the corporate department and be fully integrated into the team. Ref: 33557

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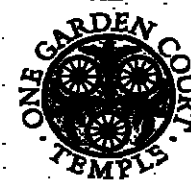
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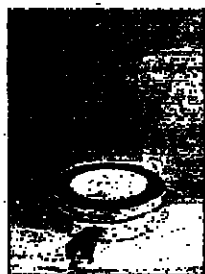
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Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Tuesday 7 January 1997.



■ VISUAL ART 1

Master of ambiguous beauty: Howard Hodgkin speaks about his new Hayward show



■ VISUAL ART 2

... while at the ICA the cool menace of Vija Celmins's neglected work goes on display

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ TOMORROW

Encore for a veteran of the avant-garde: the music of György Ligeti comes to the South Bank



■ THIS WEEK

Fifty years on: the Royal Opera House launches its celebration of golden memories

Don't look at me askance

Howard Hodgkin is one of Britain's leading artists. He represented this country at the Venice Biennale in 1984; he won the Turner Prize in 1985; he was knighted in 1992. Next year the German Government will present him with the Shakespeare Prize for German-British relations.

And yet the retrospective of his paintings that was first shown at the Metropolitan Museum in New York last autumn and which opens at the Hayward Gallery on Thursday nearly didn't come here, and Hodgkin still feels it is an uphill struggle to be a successful artist in this country.

Hodgkin, whose last big exhibition here was at the Whitechapel Gallery in 1985, is nervously waiting for the public reaction to the Hayward

Isabel Carlisle meets Howard Hodgkin, as the Hayward mounts a retrospective of his paintings

show. In covering the years 1975 to 1996 it leaves out most of the earlier, more obviously figurative works and looks instead at Hodgkin the fully fledged artist, with his own lush pictorial language. The public loved it in New York but here, Hodgkin suspects, we may find that the intensity of colour distracts us from the emotions and memories that are the subject matter of his paintings.

Oddly, Hodgkin, while not thinking of his work as English, is a very English artist. His works have that special quality of English landscape painting that conjures up place and atmosphere and, as they progress into greater

abstraction, emotional weather and the landscape of memory.

Like many of Hodgkin's works, *Rain in Rutland Gate* evades formal analysis. Why a central column of grey, flanked by areas of red on the one hand and green on the other, with vertical and arching brushstrokes and more densely worked and patterned areas of colour, should evoke glistening London pavements, the leaves of plane trees and a summer downpour is not easy to put into words, but it does. Hodgkin is reluctant to assist. He explains that he can't talk about his paintings, that it is impossible for him to verbalise what is visual, and that his

pictures have to look after themselves. "When I paint a picture I don't know why I choose the colours; they just become necessary because of the circumstances of the painting," he says.

Although the titles that Hodgkin gives his works seem to offer a way in, they can also exclude. Because these are intimate paintings about personal experiences the viewer can be brought up short by lack of information, both visual and verbal. *Dinner in Palazzo Albrizzi*, for example, may or may not combine the sparkle of water in a Venetian canal with a green curtain and a rich red interior. If we become analytical, title plus

painting can give the sensation of looking in on a rather good party but not knowing who was there, or what they were talking about, or why it was worth spying on.

Hodgkin feels that information has come between people and art in a way that it did not 50 or 60 years ago. He talks about the impact made on him by the exhibition of Picasso and Matisse held in the empty galleries of the Victoria and Albert Museum just after the war, which had only minimal wall labels. Today, "information on labels has got longer and longer and longer". In the Tate's current exhibition of the work of the four candidates for the Turner Prize, he says, visitors have watched the videos about each artist rather than looked at the art.

"There is an immense drift away from making value judgments, because they are seen as politically incorrect," he says. "Art has been replaced by information to an extraordinary extent. It has come

People might not enjoy art, but they do respond to it?

about because sociology [information about the society in which the work of art is made] and biography is much easier to absorb and, more importantly, much easier to present than a value judgment."

But reactions to art, and connoisseurship (based on having a "good eye" rather than academic expertise) are out of vogue, he says. "People might not always enjoy works of art, or art at all, but they do respond to them. The relationship of people to art has not changed, but the responding has been interfered with. I believe that human beings respond to the physical attributes of objects in a very straightforward way. Everybody has a sense of colour, and all that good taste means is being able to open oneself to



Howard Hodgkin: reluctant to assist people in the interpretation of his painting

the physical attributes of art." Hodgkin, who has his own collection of Indian paintings and lives close to the British Museum, spends a good deal of time looking at art of different cultures. It is clear to him that the way people are encouraged to make connections between objects today has more to do with information than aesthetics — "an unusable word now", he says. "When I was a child there was an influential book called *Art*

for Children, by Anna M. Berry. It was divided up into sections and illustrated things that were exciting to look at: wonderful Indian paintings; paintings by Italian Futurists; and a marvellous Picasso portrait of his son. The juxtapositions of objects from different periods and cultures were partly based on 'associationism': it was all about trying to show that art was always art."

How does our contempo-

rary, information-based, way of looking at art affect Hodgkin himself? "The lack of value judgments makes it very difficult for artists. If you use value judgments when you look at what you've done and everybody else looking at it doesn't, it increases your isolation. I just want people to respond to my art, that's all."

Howard Hodgkin is at the Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 011-960 4242 from Thursday to Feb 23

GALLERIES: Richard Cork on a long overdue tribute to Vija Celmins

Dangerous whispering

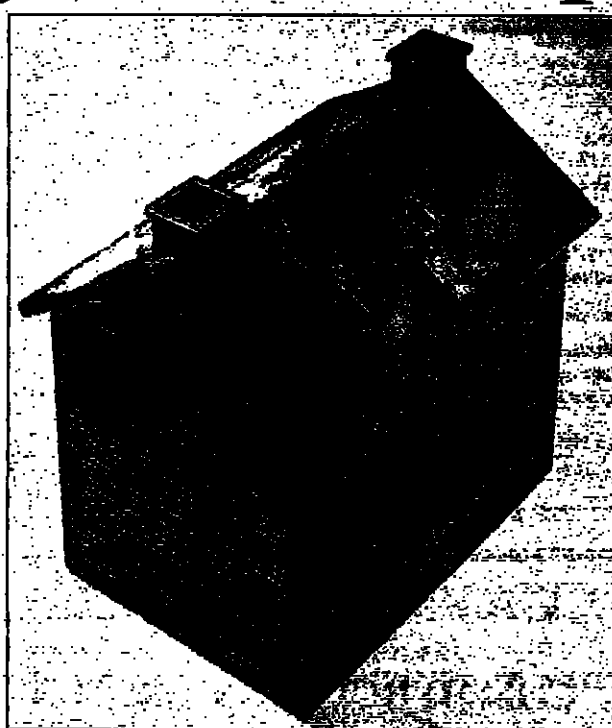
Given the high reputation she has long enjoyed in the United States, Vija Celmins's lack of recognition elsewhere seems astonishing. More than three decades of sustained and utterly singular work are surveyed in her ICA exhibition. But this is the first retrospective she has been given anywhere in Europe, and none of her paintings, drawings or sculptures is owned by public collections either in Britain or on the Continent.

How to account for such neglect? One reason may be that Celmins has never produced much work. Quiet, painstaking and meditative, she takes her time. Even now, at the age of 58 and at the start of a European tour, she emerges from her carefully cultivated privacy with caution.

Above all, though, the work itself is the very opposite of attention-seeking. In an age of clamorous self-expression, Celmins remains content to whisper rather than shout.

Born in Latvia, Celmins lived in Germany before emigrating to America. A sharp sense of dislocation can certainly be detected in the earliest paintings on view. They were executed in a studio she occupied on Venice Boulevard, Los Angeles. The luminous immensity of the Californian coast was on hand, but Celmins behaved as if the world beyond her studio did not exist. An electric fan, marooned on an empty floor, stands expectant. But the flex trailing from its base peters out in the encircling darkness. Soon, we feel, the fan itself will no longer be discernible in the gloom.

Even the most banal implements take on an ominous meaning in these remarkable canvases. And Celmins limits herself to a palette dominated by white, black, grey and the palest of browns, as restrained as the colours displayed in the Velázquez paintings she admired so much in the Prado.



House 2 showing a home on fire; the ferocity of the flames suggests that its destruction cannot be prevented

The longer we look at these early paintings, the more unsettling they become. A hot plate, isolated near the lower edge of an otherwise deserted interior, glows with electric warmth. Its orange rings serve no apparent purpose, though. They merely burn, raising the temperature and accentuating the aridity of the featureless room around them.

When violence erupts, therefore, it almost comes as a relief. The flat, dimly-lit calmness of a typical Celmins space is suddenly invaded by a hand firing a pistol. Even here, however, fundamental information is withheld. As smoke seeps out of the gun-barrel and hangs in the air, it symbolises the mystery of an aggressive act with no visible target.

As the decade develops, her awareness of menace increases. The hand holding a gun reappears in 1965 on the detachable roof of a painted

sculpture called *House 1*. Smoke fuses with clouds, and the furry interior of the building appears to offer claustrophobic protection. But in *House 2* a similar home is on fire, and the ferocity of the flames flaring from the windows suggests that its destruction cannot be prevented.

Does this obsession with danger, all the more disconcerting for being so coolly conveyed, stem from her response to contemporary life? Or can its origins be traced to a more distant period? Once Celmins starts painting, close-up images of a German plane and a "flying fortress" in 1966, her preoccupation with the past becomes clear. Based on grainy photographs, like so much of her work, these spectral fighters and bombers seem to issue from childhood fears still haunting her 20

years after the war ended. Any therapeutic release these may have given Celmins did not last long. Soon after painting a burning man as he struggles to escape from a vehicle consumed by flames, she abandoned painting altogether. The vehemence of this 1966 canvas, where greyness gives way to the rising attack of orange and flicking yellow, seems to have precipitated a crisis.

This time, she turned to drawing, and used her formidable skill with the pencil to make illusionistic images of torn newspaper clippings isolated on a plain acrylic ground. The subjects she chose — a man in a desert, spreading over Bikini atoll; the aftermath of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki — proved that her imagination was still possessed by apocalyptic visions. But they did not last long. By the end of the 1960s, Celmins had decided to take one step further back. Fired by newly released images from space exploration of the period, she used her ever more sophisticated handling of graphite to produce exquisite, beguiling simulations of the pitted landscapes revealed by lunar probes.

Celmins never lost her fascination with vastness. Since then, all her work has centred on the task of reconciling the immensity of the sea, the desert or the sky with the overall flatness of her picture surface.

Her abiding theme in recent years appears to be the interconnectedness of everything. The pallor and hardness of the desert drawings may at first contrast with the deep, velvety darkness of her recent high-sky pictures. But these "mesmerising" images originate in the same feeling of awe that informs the images of sea and land.

These rapt and contemplative sky pictures are finally about the unfathomable nature of everything.

Vija Celmins at the ICA, 011-960 0423 until Dec 22

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THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE 1

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THEATRE 2

... while the Gate uncovers an engagingly odd fable written, unexpectedly, by Strindberg

THEATRE: A bizarre story of incest and idiocy; and a charming *fin de siècle* tale

Nursery crimes

It is not just the name of this company, Told By An Idiot, but the absurdity of the scenario that sharpens your expectations. The stage is impaled by a metal spiral staircase on which sits a small velvet tent. A podgy young man comes on, switches on some fairy lights and suddenly you realise you are in a shabby cabaret club, albeit one that has more hope of selling Scottish meat pies than tickets.

What follows perhaps ought to be painted rather than performed, given that it would make more abstract sense on a canvas than it does visual sense on a stage. The young man, Jimmy (Paul Hunter), is joined by his twin sister Lily (Hayley Carmichael). They "shoot" each other with teapots, chase phantoms rats around the club's drains, and in a bedtime ritual that involves bleating like goats and hooting like monkeys, they make in the tent.

Then a sexy violinist, Natalie (Eva Marie Bryer), charges precariously down the steps of the auditorium dragging a shopping trolley behind her. She plays her instrument beautifully, wears Madonna-like bra and corsets, and she and Jimmy fall in love. The rest of this well-performed nonsense is Lily's subsequent revenge, which involves a great deal of rat poison, and several unconvincingly cabaret numbers for the club audience (us, I suppose).

But rather than subvert the adult way we tend to think about the clichéd love triangle,

the relentless childish interplay between the characters opens yawning gaps of banality and boredom. The actors nobly try to fill these by dashing frantically around the stage, and by trying to create small, charming moments of interaction where things are felt rather than said.

The little sense that is spoken is fogged until it becomes senseless. "Natalie, you've got lovely breasts. I hope you don't mind me saying so," says

You Haven't Embraced Me Yet
BAC, Battersea

Jimmy ad infinitum. She does have lovely breasts, and no she does not mind. In fact, she uses it as proof positive that Jimmy loves her, which he does, but he also loves Lily. The most frustrating thing about John Wright's production is that so much obvious physical skill and energy can add up to so little. In the hour and 40 minutes it takes to draw the threads together to create a single tingling moment of dark pathos, our interest has already had a pint in the bar and is halfway home. This is the fate, ultimately, of a play that tries to scramble by on sheer absurdity. It offers us little by way of cabaret and less by way of story.

JAMES CHRISTOPHER



Three sides to the story: Hayley Carmichael, Paul Hunter and Eva Marie Bryer

Fairytale love among the archetypes

THIS charmingly peculiar fairytale shows how much there is of Strindberg in what might be expected to be a tale that is told in all that remains a surprise.

I first became aware of Walker when he played an unforgotten fawning and grubby clerk in Cheek by Jowl's sublimely funny *A Family Affair* years ago. Though I ought to know better, this is the image that has unfairly hung about him in my mind and can now be replaced, or at least joined, by that of someone who has managed to create, on his directorial debut, a passionate tale of redemption among the archetypes that, against so many odds, holds the stage.

More than simply offering a fascinating glimpse of *fin de siècle* drama as written at the end of the last decade,

the play provides its cast with vivid characters to create and a language to do so that is certainly flowery but reminiscent of meadows and medieval gardens rather than the hothouse. Gregory Motton's translation serves his author well.

Young Swanwhite's father must set off for battle — "Farewell, my great war hero!" — and she is left to the mercy of the stepmother (Richenda Carey, wicked in rustling black velvet). A prince comes courting on behalf of a snotish king, and true love blossoms. The Green Gardener sows discord, horrid things happen in the Blue Tower: fire rages, seas pound, a brace of dead mothers bring blessings. It could all be perfectly absurd but isn't,

because of the cast's convincing habitation of their roles.

Jules Melvin projects gravity and innocence without being mawkish; her wobbly gait at the start is like a bird of course, but also suggests an enthusiastic, two-legged, newborn lamb. Her young prince, Jason Morell, declares his feelings in a most expressive, gently passionate voice, and they play their love scenes (and their show of discord) with stirring conviction.

On Gemma Fripp's set, with its sense that menace lurks in the shadows, the three candle-holding servants look as if they have stepped from an 1890s children's book. Apt image for Strindberg's dip into the pools of myth.

JEREMY KINGSTON

LONDON

BUSTER KEATON: The genius of the silent film, whose technical virtuosity was on no less a director as Woody Allen, is celebrated with the screening of *Steamboat Bill Jr* and *Shirley's Story*. These two classic films of the 1920s will be shown with new scores by Paul Robinson, played by the Harmon Band. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 017 489 4243. Tonight, 7.45pm.

THE LEARNED LADIES: Steven Pinker's amusing and elegantly acted production of Moliere. With Caroline Blakiston and Roger Alden. Barbican, 20, St. Martin's, EC2 0171-638 8891. Opens tonight, 7pm. Then tomorrow and Thurs, 7.15pm; Sat, 2pm. Then, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm, 12.15pm.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC: Yehudi Menuhin conducts the orchestra in a concert for children of all ages. The programme begins with Dvorak's Mother Goose and includes Beethoven's *Six Little Dances*. Fauré's *Dolly Suite*. The concert is presented by the Royal Philharmonic Society, 20, St. Martin's, EC2 0171-638 8891. Tonight, 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

GLASGOW: Giles Havergal directs Rachel Pittman as Dorothy, moving from black and white to full colour as she

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Macey

sets off to find *The Wizard of Oz*. All the songs of the film included. Citizens, Glasgow, 0141-429 0022. Opens Dec 3, 3pm. Then Tues-Sat, 2pm, and other parts at various times, 10am, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm, 12.15pm.

GUILDFORD: Stephanie Cole, whose selection work includes *Tommy* and *Waiting for God*, stars in Peter Shaffer's gripping new play for one actor, *Whom Do I Have the Honour of Addressing?* Directed by Bill Bryden. Yvonne Arnaud, Guildford, 01483 440000. Mon-Thu, 7.45pm; Fri and Sat, 8pm, mat, Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm. (S)

NEWCASTLE: The arts and industry partnership of the London Symphony Orchestra and Shell enters its 21st anniversary season with the 1988 Shell LSO National Tour. The concert, conducted by Sir Colin Davis, includes James MacMillan's composition for cor anglais, *The World's Ransoming* (soloist Christine Pendrell), Beethoven's magnificent Fifth Symphony and Schubert's Cello Concerto, played by Steven Isserlis. City Hall, 0191-681 2805. Tonight,

7.45pm. Mat in Glasgow, Royal Concert Hall (0141-387 5511), tomorrow: Aberdeen, Music Hall (01224 641123), Thurs.

NOTTINGHAM: English National Ballet presents the magical story of *The Nutcracker*, and to Tchaikovsky's haunting and evocative music. The company will then take Bon Stevenson's production to the Festival Hall in London for the Christmas season, with performances from December 18 to January 16. Royal Concert Hall, Theatre Square (01509 255255). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Wed, Fri and Sat, 2.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES: Bedolles: Stephanie Carlton Smith: glasswork (0171-357 0565). ... British Museum: *Mysteries of Ancient China* (0171-438 1355). ... Festival Hall: Contemporary Art Society Market (0171-357 0565). ... The Gallery in Cook Street: Karl Schuster: Images of God (0171-357 0565). ... Gallery: Museum: Christmas Past (0171-729 8891). ... George & Co: David Davies: *Barbaric* (0171-438 7319). ... Leighton House: *Silver to Silver* (0171-438 7319). ... Last performance: *Architectural Artists* (0171-242 7367). ... Royal College of Art: *Kensington* (0171-580 4444). ... Stern Art Dealers: *Lucas-Roos: Picasso Retrospective* (0171-228 6187). ... Tate: The 1986 Turner Prize Exhibition (0171-387 6303).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jenny Kingston's assessment of theatre shows in London

■ House full, returns only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats at all prices

ALBANY: St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-383 1730). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Wed and Sat, 2.30pm.

DICK DAREDEVIL: Action hero of 1944 radio comes to life in the London of double-bugs and platitudes. Musical journey from the Williams' Steam Industry, set in wartime Falmouth. Drury Lane, 0171-383 1730. Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Wed and Sat, 2.30pm. (S)

FAMILY CIRCLES: Sam Walters directs a surprisingly poignant comedy, with Mark Kingdon and David Smith playing the parents of three daughters attached to different men in each act. Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3533). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat, Thurs (Dec 19, Jan 2, 5, 16, 23, 2.30pm; Fri (Dec 27, Jan 3, 4pm; Sat 4pm. Mat, Fri and Sat, 2.30pm. (S)

THE CHERRY ORCHARD: Tremendous RSC cast, headed by Penelope Walton, Alan Rickman and David Troughton. In a production by Adrian Noble considered the best in living memory. Theatre in Edo reviews Margaret

LE BONHEUR: Victoria Chaplin and Jean-Baptiste Thiriet return with their strange and dreamlike evocation of the sets of cinema. Mermaid, Puddle Dock, Bloomsbury, EC4 (0171-236 2211). Tue-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Sun, 4pm. Also parts on Dec 23, 30, 7.30pm, and mat on Dec 24, 25, 31, Jan 1, 4pm. Mat, Jan 12.

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FOOTBALL

England offered little comfort by Sacchi's exit

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLISH football would be heading for the mother of delusions if people misinterpreted the departure, after 53 internationals, of Italy's national coach, Arrigo Sacchi, as beneficial to the England v Italy World Cup qualifying game at Wembley on February 12.

Rather, the players of Italy, whose technical and tactical quality looked as high as anyone's during the European championship in England last summer, are likely to feel the release, Sacchi had tried to go against the instincts of Italian play. He had taken them to within one missed penalty of winning the 1994 World Cup, yet, he had repressed individualism and, it is said, that the players succeeded in spite of, rather than because of, their leader.

Why then did he last? His record of winning 34 games, drawing ten and losing only nine contradicted his habit of fiddling with the line-up while his tenure burned. He used 92 players in those games and his tinkering surely cost Italy any progress in the European championship.

They had beaten Russia at Anfield with a polished and technically proficient display. Three days later, Sacchi changed five of the team, either because he underestimated the Czech Republic, or because he felt that, with his system, players were as interchangeable as light bulbs. Whenever they lost to the Czechs and the feeling remained that it was self-inflicted, that the coach betrayed the rhythm and trust of the team, and that, from then on, he lost the trust of the dressing-room.

He had lost the media long before that. One journalist had written: "Imagination and flair in Sacchi's Italian teams could be drowned in a glass of water. Ability to invent has become a mortal sin, every player is afraid to improvise."

When the players dropped and alienated, include Roberto Baggio, Gianluca Vialli and

Giuseppe Signori, then the foe in the press attracted too many public supporters even for the articulate Sacchi to withstand.

When he made his telephone call to Raffaele Pagnozzi, the commissioner temporarily in charge of Italy's football federation, to resign on Sunday, Sacchi jumped before he was pushed. A new federation president will be elected on December 14 and Sacchi already knew that the only thing keeping him in office was the size of his salary.

Therefore, when Silvio Berlusconi, the former prime minister and the owner of AC

Milan, made Sacchi an offer to return to his old club, it was one he did not, and he says could not, refuse.

Milan are losing, and Berlusconi has no patience with that. Despite castigating the media for their criticisms of Oscar Washington Tabarez, the Uruguayan who has been Milan's coach for less than half a season, Berlusconi panicked after another defeat at Piacenza on Sunday.

"I can't say no to Berlusconi," Sacchi is reported to have said. "Milan calls me, I can only resign. Try to understand."

Understand? There are those in the federation who are ecstatic. They believe they are off the hook in not having to

pay Sacchi compensation and are rid of the two men who had become, from the moment Italy dropped out of the European championship, the country's lame ducks. That day, Antonio Matarrese, then the president of the federation, had stood emotionally beside Sacchi and said: "As long as I remain president, Mr Sacchi, will also remain."

You could see from the sunken eyes of Sacchi and from the slumped shoulders of Matarrese that both suspected their time was up. The president was voted out by the summer, Sacchi lingered on.

Those who have watched and admired Italy through the years know that the quality rarely dips. Indeed, look at the exports to England — Fabrizio Ravanelli, Gianfranco Zola, Roberto Di Matteo and Vialli. We have them because Italy has better players, Italian clubs believe, at home. And while they possess an enviable surplus of riches, who can raise Italy over their threshold of neurosis, raise them and release them to perform?

The betting favours Dino Zoff, the former national goalkeeper, now the figurehead of Lazio, and Cesare Maldini, the father of Paolo, Milan and Italy's left back.

Maldini senior is primed for the succession. He has not yet had the puff of white smoke, but, as the coach to Italy's successful under-21 teams over the past five years, he has the trust of many of the squad. That, many think, is the crucial factor: trust the quality of the players, cooperate rather than order them, and Italy, next time out, will be a liberated force, which, unfortunately, will be at Wembley in February.

The tinkerer Sacchi has gone. The players, like footballers everywhere, will be anxious to impress the new man, and given their technique, frankly Charlie Carroll could take over for February 12 and come up smiling.



Sacchi's departure



Doug Evans, of Green Bay, upends Raymont Harris as the Packers beat Chicago 28-17

Cowboys look super again

By OLIVER HOIT

THE National Football League (NFL) has spent much of the year rejoicing at the variety of genuine challengers for the Super Bowl at the end of next month. Thanksgiving Day last week, though, brought a familiar franchise back into the fray instead. After a season of ups and downs, Dallas Cowboys are back in the running for the big prize.

Their win over Washington Redskins at Texas Stadium not only lifted them level with their opponents at the top of the National Football Conference Eastern division, but also forced them back into contention for crucial home-field advantage in the rapidly approaching play-offs.

Like all great teams, the Cowboys, the reigning Super Bowl champions, may now be discovering their best form at the right time after a worryingly inconsistent season. The 21-10 victory over the

Redskins also brought redemption for Emmitt Smith, their leading running back, who was benched in the surprise defeat last week by New York Giants. Smith ran for three touchdowns to seal the win.

Dallas, though, will have to rely on Green Bay Packers slipping up in their last three games of the season if they are to snatch home advantage throughout the play-offs. The Packers beat Chicago Bears 28-17 at Lambeau Field, with Brett Favre, their quarterback, throwing one touchdown pass amid 231 yards of completed passes.

The Packers, though, face Denver Broncos in Green Bay next Sunday, a match that could easily be a Super Bowl preview. The Broncos, the strongest American Football Conference (AFC) challenger for several years, are going from strength to strength.

Their 34-7 win over Seattle Seahawks on Sunday took their record to a league best of 12 wins and one loss and clinched the AFC Western division title and home-field advantage throughout the AFC play-offs. John Elway, their inspirational if ageing quarterback, threw two touchdown passes and ran for another to take the Broncos to their ninth consecutive victory.

Further south, Miami Dolphins' chances of making the play-offs appeared to have been dashed on Sunday when they lost to Oakland Raiders and saw their record fall to six wins and seven defeats. Their new coach, Jimmy Johnson, can at least take solace in the fact that his opening year in Florida has not been as parlous as his first 12 months in Dallas, where the Cowboys managed to lose 15 of their 16 games.

India order spinning wicket for final Test

By DAVID RYAN JONES

INDIA, defeated by South Africa in the first Test match in Calcutta on Sunday, have ordered a turning wicket to be prepared for the decisive final match at Kanpur. They were unhappy with the even-paced wicket at Eden Gardens, where South Africa scored an emphatic 329-run win.

India's home record of 12 wins in 17 Tests since 1990 came on wickets that aided their traditional strength in spin bowling. South Africa, who were without a spin bowler in their opening Test, in Kanpur, became the first to lose a Test on a wicket that was a fast bowler's dream.

Hyman style

Swimming: Misty Hyman, 17, from Phoenix, Arizona, sliced 0.39sec off the world short-course 100 metres butterfly record to win the Canadian Open title in 2:29.99 in Quebec City. She did so with an unusual technique, taking just one stroke during the first 25 metres, then using the subsequent 75 metres for a long, powerful stroke.

Barker battle

Rackets: Guy Barker survived a tense struggle against his namesake, Thorold Barker, to reach the quarter-finals of the Lacoate British Amateur Championship at Queen's Club, where he will meet Tim Cockerill, the defeated Old Wellingtonian, who beat Charles Roberts.

Tour task

Golf: Lisa Dermott and Lisa Edmunds, two members of the Curtis Cup-winning team this year, lead the field at the American Express European Women's Tour 72-hole qualifying school, which begins at La Manga in Spain today.

Prean fit

Table tennis: Carl Prean has been declared fit to compete in the World Grand Prix Finals in Tianjin, China, starting on December 12. "His playing style is clearly that of a professional, which has been struggling with a wrist injury."

Ruff justice eliminates stalwart in a tight spot

By DAVID RYAN JONES

MARGARET GOODWIN, from Salisbury, in Cornwall, was forced to withdraw from the national indoor singles championship, in Liskeard, on Sunday when she was refused permission to remove her tights.

For several years Goodwin, who suffers from a skin condition that affects her legs and feet, has been fighting the indignities of the English Women's Indoor Bowls Association (EWIBA) dress code, which requires competitors to wear shoes and tights.

This winter, ignoring the regulations, she entered the singles and won her first match. "Nobody seemed to mind that I wasn't wearing tights," Goodwin said, "but when I reported the result to the area secretary, Midge Judd, the first thing she asked was whether I was wearing shoes and tights. I was reluctant to reply."

When Goodwin took the matter to Margaret Ruff, the secretary of the EWIBA, she was told that the match would not be taken away from her, but, if she turned up for her next round improperly dressed, the EWIBA would be forced to disqualify her.

"I had already bought some aerated shoes and I decided to have a go in some tights, at least for the start of my match against Yvonne Woodcock," she said. "Then, just before the start, Mrs Judd sat down at the end of the rink. I told her I was wearing tights, and asked her if I would be allowed to remove them if they became unbearable." Judd explained that she could not give permission for the regulations to be broken, and stated that Goodwin would automatically forfeit the game: were she to remove her tights.

"Not surprisingly, my condition worsened," Goodwin said. "I was forced to give up after almost an hour, when I was trailing 15-1."

Ruff said yesterday: "Anyone who enters our championship has to adhere to our rules, which state clearly that shoes and tights shall be worn. No variation is acceptable."

SQUASH

Walker to pay for late arrival

CHRIS WALKER, of England, has been disqualified from the Mahindra international in Bombay after turning up late for his first-round match.

The No. 4 seed was caught out yesterday by the shortening of the time schedule of the event after the retirement of Anthony Hill, of Australia, from his match.

Hill, who was "out of his mind" with the start of his match with Zaki Jahan, of Pakistan, was disqualified from the Professional Squash Association (PSA) event.

Hill, who has only recently returned from a four-month ban from international competition, faces the possibility of another such ban.

He will have his behaviour reported to the PSA, which is also likely to consider a report of his years in a controversial match with Zaki Jahan, of Pakistan, in the world open in Karachi last month.

If he is deemed to have brought the game into disrepute, or to be guilty of aggravated behaviour, he is likely to receive a suspension from the PSA for a year to get an automatic ban.

But Walker, the No. 5 seed and a former champion, was unexpectedly beaten by Omar El Borlosy, the Egyptian No. 4.

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

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CHANGING TIMES

AMERICAN FOOTBALL									
NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Baltimore 31; Pittsburgh 17; Carolina 24; Tampa Bay 0; Green Bay 28; Chicago 17; Indianapolis 13; Buffalo 10 (OT); Jacksonville 30; Cincinnati 27; Minnesota 41; Atlanta 17; Philadelphia 24; New York Giants 0; Denver 34; Seattle 7; St. Louis 36; New Orleans 10; Houston 36; New York Jets 16; Oakland 17; Miami 7; New England 45; San Diego 7.									
American Conference Eastern division									
	W	L	T	F	A				
New England	9	4	0	355	285				
Buffalo	9	4	0	267	215				
Indianapolis	8	7	0	263	288				
Miami	8	7	0	262	285				
NY Jets	1	12	0	221	368				
Central division									
	W	L	T	F	A				
Pittsburgh	9	4	0	269	217				
Houston	7	6	0	261	254				
Jacksonville	8	7	0	263	288				
Cincinnati	5	9	0	269	318				
Baltimore	5	9	0	320	368				
Western division									
	W	L	T	F	A				
Denver	12	1	0	361	199				
Kansas City	9	4	0	262	230				
San Diego	7	6	0	262	230				
Oakland	8	7	0	274	234				
Seattle	8	7	0	250	317				
National Conference Eastern division									
	W	L	T	F	A				
Philadelphia	9	4	0	262	230				
Dallas	8	5	0	264	201				
Washington	8	5	0	261	281				
Atlanta	8	5	0	262	288				
NY Giants	5	8	0	200	250				
Central division									
	W	L	T	F	A				
Green Bay	10	0	0	346	181				
Minnesota	7	6	0	243	245				
Chicago	7	6	0	243	245				
Denver	5	8	0	263	289				
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	153	243				
Western division									
	W	L	T	F	A				
San Francisco	9	3	0	291	182				
Carolina	9	4	0	262	184				
St. Louis	8	5	0	266	284				
Atlanta	2	10	0	224	323				
New Orleans	11	0	0	184	291				
National Conference Eastern division									
	W	L	T	F	A				
Philadelphia	9	4	0	262	230				
Dallas	8	5	0	264	201				
Washington	8	5	0	261	281				
Atlanta	8	5	0	262	288				
NY Giants	5	8	0	200	250				
Central division									
	W	L	T	F	A				
Green Bay	10	0	0	346	181				
Minnesota	7	6	0	243	245				
Chicago	7	6	0	243	245				
Denver	5	8	0	263	289				
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	153	243				
Western division									
	W	L	T	F	A				
San Francisco	9	3	0	291	182				
Carolina	9	4	0	262	184				
St. Louis	8	5	0	266	284				
Atlanta	2	10	0	224	323				
New Orleans	11	0	0	184	291				

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NFL): Baltimore 11 Pittsburgh 17; Carolina 34 Tampa Bay 2; Green Bay 28 Chicago 17; Indianapolis 13 Buffalo 10 (OT); Jacksonville 30 Cincinnati 10; Cleveland 20 Philadelphia 17; Pittsburgh 24 New York Giants 6; Denver 34 Seattle 7; St. Louis 26 New Orleans 10; Houston 26 New York Jets 10; Oakland 17 Miami 7; New England 45 San Diego 7.

American Conference Eastern division

	W	L	T	F	A
New England	9	4	0	356	269
Buffalo	9	4	0	267	215
New York Jets	8	5	0	263	263
NY Jets	6	7	0	236	266
Miami	1	12	0	221	368

American Conference Western division

	W	L	T	F	A
Pittsburgh	9	4	0	299	211
Houston	7	6	0	221	254
San Diego	6	6	0	236	263
Cincinnati	5	6	0	239	318
Baltimore	4	8	0	230	359

American Conference Western division

	W	L	T	F	A
Denver	12	1	0	351	190
Kansas City	9	4	0	262	230
San Diego	7	6	0	277	252
Oakland	6	7	0	274	317
Seattle	5	6	0	250	334

National Conference Eastern division

	W	L	T	F	A
Washington	8	5	0	303	265
Philadelphia	8	5	0	254	201
Washington	8	5	0	251	251
Atlanta	6	6	0	248	322
Atlanta	6	6	0	230	330

National Conference Western division

	W	L	T	F	A
Green Bay	10	3	0	348	195
Minnesota	10	3	0	248	195
Chicago	6	6	0	232	248
San Francisco	6	6	0	232	248
Tampa Bay	4	8	0	153	243

National Conference Western division

	W	L	T	F	A
San Francisco	10	3	0	348	195
Carolina	9	4	0	252	184
St. Louis	4	10	0	232	334
New Orleans	2	11	0	184	231

* All games played in the home of the home team.

Not playing last game: Atlanta vs San Francisco

ATHLETICS

OSGORD: 1st-5 mile cross-country: Seagraves, 1; R. White and J. G. Hayden, 2nd-3; M. Finner (RAF) 30:17; 3. C. McGuire, 40:02; 4. J. P. H. Smith, 41:11; 5. J. P. H. Smith, 42:11; 6. J. P. H. Smith, 43:11; 7. J. P. H. Smith, 44:11; 8. J. P. H. Smith, 45:11; 9. J. P. H. Smith, 46:11; 10. J. P. H. Smith, 47:11; 11. J. P. H. Smith, 48:11; 12. J. P. H. Smith, 49:11; 13. J. P. H. Smith, 50:11; 14. J. P. H. Smith, 51:11; 15. J. P. H. Smith, 52:11; 16. J. P. H. Smith, 53:11; 17. J. P. H. Smith, 54:11; 18. J. P. H. Smith, 55:11; 19. J. P. H. Smith, 56:11; 20. J. P. H. Smith, 57:11; 21. J. P. H. Smith, 58:11; 22. J. P. H. Smith, 59:11; 23. J. P. H. Smith, 60:11; 24. J. P. H. Smith, 61:11; 25. J. P. H. Smith, 62:11; 26. J. P. H. Smith, 63:11; 27. J. P. H. Smith, 64:11; 28. J. P. H. Smith, 65:11; 29. J. P. H. Smith, 66:11; 30. J. P. H. Smith, 67:11; 31. J. P. H. Smith, 68:11; 32. J. P. H. Smith, 69:11; 33. J. P. H. Smith, 70:11; 34. J. P. H. Smith, 71:11; 35. J. P. H. Smith, 72:11; 36. J. P. H. 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TENNIS

Henman to net reward for year's attainments

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN MUNICH

IT SEEMS an awfully long time ago that Tim Henman was taking the nation by storm at Wimbledon, but in tennis the men with the money have long memories. Today Henman opens the Compag Grand Slam Cup, the richest tournament on the circuit, against Michael Stich, having squeezed into the main draw after an excruciating quarter-final.

At worst, Henman stands to make \$100,000 (£65,000) as a first-round loser, but should he go through to the quarter-finals, he is guaranteed a cheque of at least \$250,000; and, against Stich, anything is possible.

Not that Henman is expecting anything from his week in Munich. The call to arms was a surprise and whatever happens here is no more than a bonus to a highly successful year.

The experience will at least serve Henman well. To play Stich in front of a partisan German crowd should make the polite, if enthusiastic, applause on the lawns of the All England Club seem a million miles away and, should he reach the semi-finals, he is likely to face Boris Becker.

The Grand Slam Cup has always been something of a mixed blessing to its champions. They walk away with \$1.5 million for winning the tournament, with an extra \$250,000 for each grand-slam tournament title that they have won during the course of the year. Few, though, have been able to carry the weight of all that money and victory here has marked the beginning of some past champions.

In 1991 David Wheaton was

ranked No 12 in the world and a semi-finalist at Wimbledon. He rounded off the year with a win in Munich and has not been the same since. Two years later Petr Korda took the title and has spent the three years since trying to climb back to his former world standing after a series of injuries. Even Stich has had his ups and downs since he won here in 1992 and lost to Korda in the 1993 final.

Not even the vast sums of money on offer can repair the wear and tear of 11 months on the road and, as the season limps to a close, Pete Sampras, Michael Chang and Todd Martin have pulled out citing injury problems. That has opened the door not only for Henman, but also for Thomas Enqvist and Jacob Hlasek. Quite what state Enqvist will be in tomorrow, when he takes on Yevgeny Kafelnikov, is anybody's guess. A fraught Davis Cup final and five long sets on Sunday may have ended his challenge before it has even begun.

Goran Ivanisevic is the exception to the Grand Slam Cup rule, but then again he never does anything according to the rules. As moody as he is talented, Ivanisevic, the world No 4, was snuck firmly in the door until he arrived in Munich last December. With no real hopes of doing well, he won the title and has collected five Association of Tennis Professionals Tour events this year. He begins his defence tomorrow against Mikael Tillstrom.

If pushed, most players will admit that they play in the Grand Slam Cup for the money. Ivanisevic, though, has an added motive. Last year he took his winner's cheque back to Croatia and started a children's foundation to help those still struggling in the aftermath of the war. While few things appear to matter to Ivanisevic, he is at heart a decent chap and a good showing in Munich will help to swell the foundation's coffers.

Cup strengthens its emotional ties

David Miller on the dramatic French win that epitomised the appeal of tennis as a team competition

If there was any doubt about the continuation of the Davis Cup as an annual contest, then it was expelled by one of the most enthralling of the 84 finals so far, in which France defeated Sweden 3-2 in Malmo. For the first time, the final was decided in the fifth set of the fifth rubber.

The last day, over nine fluctuating hours of the two remaining singles, was one of the most tensely emotional sporting events in my experience. Thomas Enqvist's victory, from two sets down, over Cedric Pioline, and Arnaud Boetsch's defeat of Niklas Kulti, deputy for the injured Stefan Edberg, produced the kind of theatre with unknown plot that words cannot adequately portray.

Before play on Sunday, Brian Tobin, the president of the International Tennis Federation (ITF), had given a press conference at which he poured cold water, not to say scorn, on a suggestion that the Davis Cup might be limited, to accommodate self-centred professionals, to a two or four-yearly cycle. Such a proposal has been made by Sampras, Agassi and that foremost of commercial tennis entrepreneurs, Ion Tiriac.

"The ITF sees no benefit in a two-year cycle," Tobin said, "or, as Tiriac suggests, every four years. We've got to encourage the top players to play, but the Davis Cup is not designed just for them. We have 127 countries competing next year."

Yannick Noah, the France captain, who was on the losing side when beaten by John McEnroe over five sets in the final of 1982, was even more dismissive, as his team began celebrating their first victory since 1991. "If they [the top United States players] don't play, too bad," he said. "We'll just keep winning! If they only play every five years, that's wonderful."

"What I love about the Davis Cup is that it's not about contracts, schedules, about business. It's about a team. A different thing. It takes [individual] character to win in the grand slams, but what you do in the Davis Cup is sacrifice for others... that's why the Davis Cup is great."



Boetsch, left, and Pioline are overjoyed after winning the Davis Cup for France

You have to give up four weeks [of earning time].

"And look at the doubles. This is when doubles become a big deal. You don't get that elsewhere anymore. This team makes my life special - they are the ones sweating and bleeding."

One of those had been Boetsch, who was selected but did not play in 1991. A 27-year-old Parisian, ranked 32 places above Kulti at No 33 in the world, he now shared with the not widely-known Swede a marathon match more memorable than most.

If sympathy instinctively veers towards Kulti, wracked with cramp, for failing to grasp any of three match points at 7-6 in the final set, admiration abounds - for Boetsch's capacity not to panic, to hit three steady services that Kulti could not exploit.

Kulti had seized the Excelsior of Edberg, who had

been laid low with an injured ankle in the first set of the opening match on Friday against Pioline. Leading two sets to one, and then with match points, the reserve was poised for triumph. The attack of cramp had struck when he was 5-3 down in the fourth set tie-break. Through-out the final set, the colour

drained from his face and fear became visible behind his eyes, as the realisation took hold that his pain was increasingly likely to deny him and his country.

"Sure, I was aware he was cramping bad," Boetsch said, "and I tried to make him move [about], but didn't do it so well. He was serving very well and I was also tired, but trying my best."

It was a disappointment that Edberg should have denied his opportunity to bid a last time for one of the game's finest rewards. In recognition of his illustrious career, the French team spontaneously chaired him from the arena.

Jeremy Bates will be the non-playing captain of the British squad that will compete in the champions' division in the European men's team championships, which start in Reggio Calabria, Italy, today.

SNOOKER

Hendry's status confirmed by stirring victory

BY PHIL YATES

THE true greats of any sport are defined by an ability to give of their best when battle is at its most intense. Stephen Hendry's 10-9 victory over John Higgins in the United Kingdom championship final on Sunday, was just such an occasion.

In many respects, the manner in which Hendry prevailed was more impressive than a 10-0 whitewash. It once again underscored the theory that he revels in pressure situations, unlike the majority of players who are inhibited by them.

"I know how good I am when my back is to the wall and I also know it's a tremendous asset," Hendry said. He has now captured two of his five UK titles in deciding frame finishes after an equally dramatic 16-15 win over Steve Davis five years ago.

Davis, the yardstick by which Hendry views the progress of his career, has collected 28 world ranking titles since becoming a professional in 1978. Hendry, who only surrendered his amateur status in 1985, has already won 26.

The Scot leads Davis in "majors" won with six world championship and Benson & Hedges Masters triumphs combining with five successful campaigns at Preston to make 17 against the 14 secured by Davis.

In two other significant statistical categories, Hendry occupies a league of his own. He has compiled 358 century breaks in professional competition, more than 100 more than Davis, and almost 200 more than Jimmy White and John Parrott, third and fourth on the list respectively.

Even more illuminating is Hendry's total career prize-money. By collecting the £70,000 first prize on Sunday and the £5,000 highest televised break award, Hendry increased this figure to £4,962,987.

Putting this into perspective, Hendry has earned, using the current exchange rate, a greater sum than some members of the top ten all-time money earners on the United States golf tour.

It is, however, a measure of the man that, after lifting the

UK trophy for a third successive year, Hendry drew most satisfaction from having safely protected his leading position in the provisional world rankings.

The path taken by the final showed Hendry's unshakable temperament in a new light. This powerful front runner has never appeared quite so vulnerable on such a big occasion, yet, with the Guild Hall ready to acclaim a Higgins victory, Hendry somehow engaged overdrive.

From the moment Higgins stole the thirteenth frame by doubling a re-spotted black after requiring a snooker, Hendry was unusually edgy. Trailing 8-9, he seemed set to



Hendry: impressive

collapse. However, defying momentum and tension, Hendry constructed a superb run of 82 and 77 in the closing two frames while Higgins failed to muster a single point. The long-term effect on their future meetings remains to be seen.

Hendry has now won four of their five encounters, including a 9-5 success in the final of the Skoda Grand Prix last year and, from the evidence of the match on Sunday, Higgins could be in the shadow of his compatriot for some time to come.

"John and myself have proved we're the best two players in the world and we're stretching away from the field," Hendry said. Unfortunately for Higgins, while that may be true, Hendry has pulled away from him.

FINAL: S Hendry (Scot) bt J Higgins (Scot) 10-9. Frame scores (Hendry first): 25-72, 75-32, 105-14, 16-45, 80-25, 109-14, 36-70, 4-93, 73-4, 61-33, 109-0, 59-89, 38-68, 28-96, 29-82, 12-82, 82-0, 77-0

ICE HOCKEY

Party mood is wasted on Eagles

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

CARDIFF Devils played their first home game on November 30, 1996: last Saturday, therefore, was a day of celebration. Unfortunately, Ayr Scottish Eagles had not read the script and ruined the party by beating the Devils 3-1.

Without two of their leading players, the Eagles settled for a defensive approach, or, in the words of Jim Lynch, their coach: "We decided to play boring hockey." They were well organised throughout and were helped by a brilliant performance from Sven Kampff, in goal, who made several outstanding saves, notably when he denied Ken Hodge in the second period.

The Devils were not helped by the loss of Mike Ware, their captain, who became involved in a fight with Matt Hoffman after only three minutes' play and who was ejected because two of his punches landed on a linesman. It was Cardiff's fifth home defeat of the season, but they were unbeaten away - until they visited Bracknell Bees, the bottom club, on Sunday.

A goal ahead after only 32 seconds, the Bees were never headed, although the Devils did show some spirit, coming back from a 7-2 deficit in the final period to lose, finally, 7-5. The Eagles completed a satisfactory weekend by holding Sheffield Steelers 4-4, and must be in good spirits as they prepare for the Benson and Hedges Cup final on Saturday. In contrast, Nottingham Panthers, their opponents, have injury problems and their lack of depth is proving a handicap.

On Saturday, they were beaten 4-1 at home by the Steelers - their fifth successive defeat - and have only Bracknell below them in the Superleague.

RESULTS: Superleague: Bracknell 2 Cardiff 5; Sheffield 4 Ayr 4; Premier League: Cardiff 5 Sheffield 7; Kingston 3 Sheffield 4; Nottingham 3 Bracknell 4; Bracknell 3 Sheffield 4; Bracknell 3 Sheffield 4; Bracknell 3 Sheffield 4.

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
UEFA Cup
Third round, second leg
Newcastle (1) v FC Metz (1) (8.0)
FA Cup
Fifth round
Middlesbrough v Leicester (7.45)
National League
First division
Birmingham v Barnet (7.45)
Reading v Tranmere (7.45)
Sheffield Utd v Huddersfield (7.45)
Second division
Blackpool v Plymouth (7.45)
Bristol City v Weymouth (7.45)
Burton Albion v Wrexham (7.45)
Bury v Preston (7.45)
Charterhouse v Peterborough (7.45)
Gillingham v Crawley (7.45)
Luton v York (7.45)
Luton Albion v Stockport (7.45)
Stratford v Bournemouth (7.45)
Walsley v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Wycombe v Millwall (7.45)
Third division
Barnet v Leyton Orient (7.45)
Brighton v Darlington (7.45)
Cambridge Utd v Mansfield (7.45)
Cardiff v Swansea (7.45)
Chester v Fulham (7.45)
Exeter City v Exeter (7.45)
Lincoln v Carlisle (7.45)
Northampton v Fleet (7.45)
Preston North End v Colchester (7.45)
Southend v Hartlepool (7.45)
Torquay v Rochdale (7.45)
Wigan v Doncaster (7.45)
Barnet Scottish League
Premier division
Dunfermline v Celtic (8.0)
First division
East Fife v Dundee (8.0)
Second division
Clyde v Stranraer (8.0)
Third division
Alloa v Albion (8.0)
Cowdenbeath v Forfar (8.0)
Spalding Cup
Second round
Woking v Welling (7.45)
ON MARTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Salford v Gillingham; 1st division: Salford v Gillingham; 2nd division: Salford v Gillingham; 3rd division: Salford v Gillingham; 4th division: Salford v Gillingham; 5th division: Salford v Gillingham; 6th division: Salford v Gillingham; 7th division: Salford v Gillingham; 8th division: Salford v Gillingham; 9th division: Salford v Gillingham; 10th division: Salford v Gillingham; 11th division: Salford v Gillingham; 12th division: Salford v Gillingham; 13th division: Salford v Gillingham; 14th division: Salford v Gillingham; 15th division: Salford v Gillingham; 16th division: Salford v Gillingham; 17th division: Salford v Gillingham; 18th division: Salford v Gillingham; 19th division: Salford v Gillingham; 20th division: Salford v Gillingham; 21st division: Salford v Gillingham; 22nd division: Salford v Gillingham; 23rd division: Salford v Gillingham; 24th division: Salford v Gillingham; 25th division: Salford v Gillingham; 26th division: Salford v Gillingham; 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A manic Monday of women behaving badly

Monday nights are normally staid affairs. We look forward to the cool authority of *Horizon*, *World in Action*, *Panorama* or *Secret Lives*, and wrap our legs in blankets. But something went wrong last night: the telly glowed hot and over-excited, perhaps in early anticipation of Christmas. What with the continuation of *Moll Flanders* (ITV) as well as the *Wicked Women* film *Brazen Hussies* (BBC2) the telly was all noise and colour and flesh and sex, in dizzying amounts. Normally, the morning after a Monday night, one wakes the wiser for a few facts about science, society, politics and biography; and can feel sober and virtuous (if curiously empty). How remarkable, then, that waking after last night's offerings one cannot see the colour pink without breaking into a muck sweat and rushing to the bathroom.

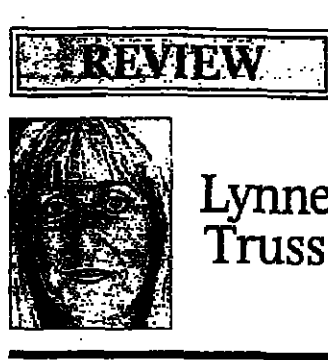
Brazen Hussies was a bold

production, but unfortunately its boldness had so little ostensible purpose that it becomes hard to offer congratulations. In terms of production, in fact, it was one of the most peculiar things I've ever seen — a high-camp, hysterical form of parody, with boudoirs of deep pink, ambient light of deep pink, condoms of deep pink, and even deep pink bollards running alongside the gasometer. Julian Clary did stammering cameos. Meanwhile the rather sad story concerned a middle-aged, love-starved woman whose attempt to jump-start her libido involved employing young men as male strippers in her husband's pub.

Julie Walters, as Maureen, was terrific, as usual — but never has an actor had to fight so hard against the wallpaper, and lost. Meanwhile, Robert Lindsay gave an enthusiastically flesh-crawling performance as the loathsome Billy: a preening Romeo with Bee

Gee shirts and nasty hair like Peter Stringfellow, who seduced Maureen and promptly betrayed her. His particular courtesan ritual was to disappear under a dinner table and re-emerge with Maureen's thighs in his mouth, so no wonder she fell for him. Sexual attraction is funny, isn't it? The only trouble from the characterisation point of view was that, with Billy clearly contemptible from the start, Lindsay had nowhere much to take him (pelvic thrusts notwithstanding).

A bit more realism in the production, and Maureen and Billy could have come properly alive. But realism wasn't the point, as I somehow keep forgetting. Poising pouches were the point; waxed chests, and menapausal over-excitement. Women in garish make-up chased young lads, skulking down the street; at the grand opening of Ladies' Night, a pack of women fell on



Lynne Truss

Lindsay and tore his clothes off, like the Bacchae with hair spray. And in the midst of it all, Jimmy Tarbuck was brilliantly cast as a showbiz promoter, which shows what bizarre things can happen when imagination runs wild.

What would have made Maureen happy? Love, that's what. Or, in her own words, "some kind of tenderness". The same message comes coming across in the contin-

uing story of *Moll Flanders*, too. Beautifully played by Alex Kingston, Moll is feisty (and fond of rum-pump), but the point of her story is that she is continually searching for a safe haven. She only looks for a new man when the last one lets her down; or when conscience drives her. Last night's second episode concerned her unfortunate marriage to her half-brother, in Virginia. The discovery of this consanguinity was double-edged, of course, because although Moll found her true mother (hoorah!), the old lady turned out to be Diana Rigg in a funny hood, doing an uncalled-for impersonation of Glenda Jackson.

Much as I am enjoying *Moll Flanders* — especially the very English, *Tom Jones* energy of it — I must say the scene between mother and daughter last night was astonishingly bad. Rigg's Mrs Golightly is certainly no conventional woman, but her reception of

Moll's news still required something more in the acting department than pursed lips and round eyes. It's not every day you discover your son's wife is your own daughter. Diana Rigg, however, looked like somebody who had just been goosed, but couldn't look round.

Best thing of the whole evening, in my opinion, was Channel 4's *Pond Life*. This new, 15-minute animated series, written and directed by Candy Guard, concerns yet another reckless female looking in vain for a harbour, in this case Dolly Pond — a grotesque cartoon girl with big glasses, spotty shorts and a fat friend called Belle.

Dissatisfied single life is the big funny subject with women these days, and it makes you think, doesn't it? I mean, gosh, if I had only written a million columns about it myself, I would bring them

out in paperback for Christmas! Dolly Pond, meanwhile, is gloriously funny — snappy, self-pitying, self-deluding, contradictory, exaggerated, in short, just like every single woman I know. Deciding that she's hopelessly in love with a ginger-haired photographer called Sid (who has no idea), she watches Sid with Belle but can't get Sid off her mind. "Bernice!" says someone on the telly. "Oh God," sighs Dolly, wretchedly. "Sid's mum's called Bernice."

The drawing is funny, but the scripts are brilliant (and I have watched the next three, to check). Emma Chambers voices Belle, and Sarah Ann Kennedy has the perfect moaning tone for Dolly. The only problem is that it's scheduled at 5.45 — when nobody will see it.

● Lynne Truss's collection of columns Making the Cat Laugh is published by Penguin on Thursday at £6.99

REVIEW



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- 6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (13715)**
6.00am BBC BREAKFAST NEWS (14845)
9.00am BREAKFAST NEWS EXTRA (1291339)
9.25am STYLE CHALLENGE (4174357)
9.50am KILROY Studio debate (400405)
10.30am CANT COOK, WON'T COOK (13380)
11.00am NEWS (1388330)
11.05am THE REALLY USEFUL SHOW
Consumer advice (584203)
11.45am SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (8387834)
12.00am NEWS (1782077)
12.05pm THE FLYING DOCTORS (13830951)
12.50am A DIFFERENT COUNTRY PRACTICE (30010048)
1.00am NEWS (17) and weather (47932)
1.30am REGIONAL NEWS (5820654)
1.40am NEIGHBOURS (1) (28044390)
2.00am CALL MY BLUFF (7135)
2.30am THE TERRACE (39)
3.00am INCOGNITO (8970)
3.30am BRUM (7058785) 3.40am Remould the Reindeer (1534048) 3.50am Chucklevision (5265574) 4.10am Oscar's Orchestra (1) (132512) 4.35am I'll Never Work (1) (7828425) 5.00am Neweround (1) (5586086)
5.10am THE BIZ A new series begins about the students of the Markov School of Dance and Drama (8888993)
5.35am NEIGHBOURS (1) (1) (230339)
6.00am NEWS (17) and weather (38)
6.30am REGIONAL NEWS (90)
7.00am HOLIDAY Jill Dando visits Sorrento in the Neapolitan Riviera; John Pitterman drives from LA to Palm Springs; Carol Smilie explores Portugal's Costa de Prata on horseback; and John Holdsworth takes the Eurostar to Lille (1) (1951)
7.30am EASTENDERS The Vic is under surveillance, while Peggy and Tiffany embark on a secret trip. Carol receives a very frosty reception upon her return home (1) (74)
8.00am SPORTSNIGHT: Newcastle v Metz Live action from the UEFA Cup third round second-leg tie from St James' Park. Presented by Desmond Lynam. Commentary from John Motson and Chris Waddeley. NB: Subsequent programmes are subject to delay and alteration (4193244)
9.55am NEWS (17) REGIONAL NEWS and weather (488512)
10.25am FILM: Night Hawks (1991) with Sylvester Stallone. Thriller about two New York cops who are assigned to a special unit on the trail of international terrorists. Directed by Bruce Malcolm (1) (407055)
WALESE: 10.25am Irish Politics 10.55am FILM: Night Hawks 12.30am FILM: After Midnight 2.00am News headlines; weather
12.00am FILM: After Midnight (1988) with Julian McMahon and Pamela Segall. A group of college students visit their tutor's house one night as part of their "Psychology of Fear" course. Not all survive until the morning. Directed by Ken and Jim Wheat (1) (4617)
1.30am WEATHER (8555471)

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- 6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: The Necessity** for History (7069222) 6.25am Writing and Unwriting Testimony (7055557) 6.50am An Historian at Work (8388191) 7.00am Hear News (2318406) 7.30am Parle of Penelope Phipps (6233300) 7.50am Blue Peter (1) (5240406) 8.15am Johnson and Friends (5885593) 8.25am Spot (597845) 8.35am The Record (6376512) 9.00am The World's Worst (130665) 9.15am Life Size in the Kitchen (5752425) 10.00am Playboys (2744357) 10.25am The Fugitive (8571932) 11.15am The Phil Silvers Show (4222200) 11.40am Flash Gordon (5032777) 12.00am See Hear (35512) 12.30am Working Lunch (53855) 1.30am Spot (5257784) 1.45am Johnson and Friends (8082845)
1.15am FILM: The North Star (b/w, 1943) starring Anne Baxter and Farley Granger. Second World War drama about a group of Soviet partisans defying the Nazis. Directed by Lewis Mileston (7284845)
3.00am News (1) (7433300) 3.05am Westminster with Nick Ross (1) (2781628) 3.55am News (5240789) 4.00am Today's the Day (13) 4.30am Ready, Steady, Cook (15) 5.00am The Oprah Winfrey Show (1) (4917593) 5.40am Little Miss in a Day (442837) 5.50am A Week to Remember (b/w) (49135)
6.00am FRESH PRINCE OF BEL AIR (1) (232357) 6.25am Heartbreak High (1) (107048) 7.10am The O Zone (888583)
7.30am THE VERDICT David Rose investigates why beatniks are the only professionals you can't sue (1) (16)
8.00am UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE Manchester v Birkbeck, London (1) (8241)
8.30am FOOD AND DRINK Michael Barry offers advice on taking the stress out of preparing the Christmas dinner. Jill Goodwin and Oz Clarke taste test a selection of Spanish wines (1) (4048)
When Rover Met BMW BBC2, 9.30pm
The final part of Jill Nicholson's anatomy of a motoring marriage highlights the obsessive secrecy surrounding the development of new models. Although the cameras were allowed to cover the testing of a new Land Rover in Yorkshire, the company made it jolly sure that nothing was given away. The footage is so incriminating that the vehicle could be traced. There is a similar blurring of the film's main story, the resignation of Rover's British chief executive, John Towers, and his replacement by a German from Munich. The move is never convincingly explained, least of all by Towers himself, who seems more concerned with improving his own image than with upsetting his erstwhile bosses. The incident is typical of the series which has been strong on Anglo-German cultural differences but seldom got past the boardroom door.
Network First: The Widow, the Terrorist and the SAS ITV, 10.40pm
Souhaila Andrawes was one of four Palestinians who hijacked a German plane to Somalia in 1977. The only terrorist to survive when the plane was stormed by German special forces and the British SAS, she is living in Norway and fighting extradition to Germany to stand trial for murder. She has a long-standing ally in Barry Davies, one of the SAS men involved in the operation to free the hostages. He has come to sympathise with the Palestinian cause and reckons that Andrawes, who was wounded in the shoot-out and has already been in prison, has suffered enough. Monika Schumann, widow of the pilot shot dead by the terrorists, not surprisingly takes a different view. In the tense finale of a cleverly mounted documentary she meets Andrawes face-to-face in Oslo.
Waymark

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- 6.00am GIMTV (7223425)**
6.55am SUPERMARKET SWEEP (4150948)
9.55am REGIONAL NEWS (2721406)
1.55am THE TIME...THE PLACE (25222)
10.30am THIS MORNING (8006045)
12.20pm REGIONAL NEWS (1) (5825131)
12.30am NEWS and weather (1) (8049891)
12.55am SHORTLAND STREET (9024661) 1.25am High Road (1) (3231614) 2.00am Home and Away (1) (3856324) 2.25am Cross Wits (60513929) 2.50am Vanessa (3027970)
3.20am NEWS (1) (7447680)
3.25am REGIONAL NEWS (7446951)
3.30am POTAMUS PARK (9753113) 3.40am Wizardra (1520574) 3.50am Zot the Dog (1658749) 4.05am Garfield and Friends (2340222) 4.15am Hey Arnold! (1128551)
4.40am THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO PARTIES (1) (1104325)
5.10am WHAT'S MY LINE? (7803593)
5.40am NEWS (17) and weather (749581)
6.00am HOME AND AWAY (1) (229883)
6.25am HTV NEWS (1) (487996)
7.00am EMMERDALE (1) (3319)
7.30am THE MIDDLE AGES: Forever Young Ray Gosling meets middle-aged people who want to stay young forever (1) (70)
8.00am THE BILL DCI Meadows decides to investigate the involved murder of a prostitute (1) (2067)
8.30am THE COOK REPORT The investigative reporter uncovers more shady deals and unscrupulous connexions (1) (1574)
9.00am SOLDIER, SOLDIER Hobbs is captured by the Carverian army and the boys turn back to look for him (1) (3883)
10.00am NEWS (17) and weather (30067)
10.30am REGIONAL NEWS (529698)
Anglia
As HTV West except: 12.55pm CROSS WITS (9024661) 1.25pm HOME AND AWAY (3067522) 1.55pm JUSTICE OF THE LAND (2905853) 2.20pm CRAWSHAW PAINTS CONSTABLE COUNTRY (3027970) 5.10pm-5.40pm SHORTLAND STREET (9024661) 6.30pm-7.00pm ANGLIA NEWS (88) 7.30pm-8.00pm OUT TO LUNCH WITH BRIAN TURNER (70) 11.40pm WISGUY (347932)
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5.30am NEWS (56471)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
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- 6.30am WISH KID (32512)** 7.00am The Big Breakfast (60883) 9.00am Here's One! Made Earlier (17116)
9.30am FILM: The High Road (1) (3231614) b/w, George and Ira Gershwin with musical starring Adolphe Menjou. Directed by George Marshall (7928039)
11.35am HIGHLAND JOURNEY (3557262) 12.00pm House To House (20880) 12.30pm Trumpton (9151608) 12.45am Alfie Atkins (9149864) 1.00pm Slot Meithrin (63970) 1.35pm Ricki Lake (969135) 4.00pm Fifteen-One (96) 4.30pm Short Stories: We Love You Alan Shearer (83) 5.00pm Pump (4425) 5.30pm Countdown (35) 6.00pm Newyddion (128715) 6.05pm Heno (207681) 6.35pm Sion Siân (486228) 7.00pm Pobol Y Cwm (50753) 7.25pm Brodyr Bach (754048) 7.50pm Fortune (3330) 8.30pm Newyddion (9115) 9.00pm Achabachyn: Llyniau A Dwr Poeth (21749) 9.45pm Poly Y Pwll (852796) 10.00pm Brookside (83188) 10.35pm Drop The Dead Donkey (325039) 11.05pm Northern Exposure (117628) 12.00pm Saga Of Life (11742) 12.00am Travels With My Camera (78094)
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AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Denver's confidence
mile-high after
record sequence

SPORT

TUESDAY DECEMBER 3 1996

TENNIS 49

Dramatic final
confirms Davis
Cup's credibility

Keegan demands discipline Safe European home sought by Newcastle

By DAVID MADDOCK

ON THE flight back from France after the first leg of their Uefa Cup third-round tie, the only worry that consumed the Newcastle United players was to arrive safely back in Blighty. It appeared qualification was virtually guaranteed after a 1-1 draw, and their thoughts were, instead, fully occupied by a horrendous ice-off at snow-bound Metz airport.

The plane made it back to Newcastle, of course, but such a harrowing journey, buffeted by howling snowstorms and gales that raged across the Continent, may have offered a clue that the second leg is not as straightforward as it seemed after that fulfilling evening in the medieval town. Newcastle enter the game

tonight on the back of a performance against Arsenal on Saturday that Kevin Keegan, the Newcastle manager, described as the worst his side has produced this season. The alarm bells are clearly ringing at St James' Park after the perplexing 2-1 defeat and Keegan displayed more than a hint of nervousness in his voice yesterday when he addressed the contest this evening.

"I could tell from this morning's training session that the players were hurt," he said of the Arsenal game. "I imagine they drove home on Saturday knowing that the performance wasn't acceptable, either for the fans or the chairman, who has put so much money into this club. It is about pride, and

we didn't look as if we wanted to win. But they have to learn, and learn quickly, because if we play like that again we will be out of this competition."

Keegan has set much store by the Uefa Cup this season. He believes that Newcastle are good enough to win a European trophy and is determined to do so, if only to prove that English football is the equal of its continental counterparts.

There was nothing to suggest in Metz that the French club is capable of preventing progress to the quarter-final, but that was before Newcastle's inexplicably listless display on Saturday. The game was still dominating the agenda yesterday, not least for the allegation against Alan Shearer that he contributed to the dismissal of Tony Adams.

Shearer was quick to refute such a suggestion. Newcastle must concentrate, he said, on rebuilding confidence for the game tonight rather than dwelling too long on past results. "Tony shouldn't have been sent off, and there is no problem between us," he said.

If there was a gloom pervading the Newcastle training ground yesterday, then it must surely have been lifted a little by news from the opposition camp. Newcastle endured a physical contest in the first leg, with Ginola and Batty, in particular, receiving rough treatment. Now, it seems, the French team are worried about what awaits them.

Isaías, the Brazilian, was involved in a skirmish with Batty and he has apparently been fined £5,000 for throwing a punch at the England international. He could also be dropped, meaning the inference from Joel Müller, the Metz coach, was that his midfield player does not possess the stomach for a return.

"He is nervous, and there is no room for that," Müller said. "It is a matter of temperament, and I am not sure he has enough discipline for a match like this. I cannot forgive what he did in the first leg."

Keegan is likely to give the team that was embarrassed on Saturday a chance to redeem itself this evening, despite threats of major changes immediately after the game. "I am not a manager who does go in for many changes," he said yesterday. There is one change he does demand from his players, though: that they show more discipline. "If we do that, we will go through," he said.



Atherton considers England's unconvincing start to the tour during nets at the Harare Sports Club yesterday

Russell faces Test exclusion

FROM SIMON WILDE
IN HARARE

ENGLAND intend to leave out Jack Russell, their best wicketkeeper, for the first Test match against Zimbabwe which starts on December 18. Alec Stewart is again likely to fill the dual role as batsman — though in the less familiar position of No 3 — and wicketkeeper, to allow them to play five bowlers in the search for an attack with real bite. For a match against the weakest Test nation in the world, this is an indictment indeed.

The decision is also a stern reflection on the unpromising start made by Ronnie Irani, the only bowling all-rounder in the party. He presented the only other option to give the side balance, but it is clearly felt, even at this early stage of the tour, that his bowling lacks penetration. He may yet find a way into the side if the decision is taken to play four seamers rather than the now expected three.

The England management

has "shown its hand" (to use the words of David Lloyd, the coach, yesterday) so far in advance of the Test series because it wants to allow its chosen XI the chance to play in the two four-day games before the first Test in Bulawayo. The first begins today against Mashonaland and the second,

only other seamer, apart from Irani.

Whether five England bowlers will actually be any more effective than four is a moot point. All but Gough of the five earmarked to play took part in the one-day defeat by the President's XI on Sunday and scarcely struck fear into the hearts of a modestly strong side.

To facilitate Stewart's role with minimum disruption, he will not continue to open the innings, a role that would have been subject to late change if Stewart had experienced a long day in the field. Instead, Atherton will open with Knight, a combination that has the added advantage of bringing right-handers and left-handers together.

This is far from the first time Stewart and Russell have been asked — in different ways — to pay the price for the absence of a genuine batting and bowling all-rounder. Indeed, it happened in England's last Test match, in August, when they needed to beat Pakistan and

Russell received an immediate assurance that he would tour.

Russell, who in June scored a fine defiant century against India at Lord's, said yesterday of his likely omission that he would be "telling a lie if I said that it did not hurt". But the Test series is still a fortnight away and a lot can happen in that time to change England's thinking.

"I have to try to remain optimistic," Russell said. "Anything can happen and I will certainly be making sure I am ready for every game. Although it hurts at the moment it won't deter me from fighting on."

Judging by what will be in operation today, the first-choice bowling attack will consist of Muttiah, Gough and Caddick as the three seamers and Tufnell and Croft as spinners. Though Gough and Caddick are not fully fit, Gough has blistered feet and Caddick has not recovered from a viral infection. The uncapped Silverwood is the

only other seamer, apart from Irani.

England XI vs Mashonaland: M A Atherton (captain), N V Knight, A J Stewart, G P Thompson, J P Crawley, R D B Croft, D Gough, A R Caddick, P C R Tufnell, A D Mulvey.

England XI vs Mashonaland: M A Atherton (captain), N V Knight, A J Stewart, G P Thompson, J P Crawley, R D B Croft, D Gough, A R Caddick, P C R Tufnell, A D Mulvey.

Rogan in on merit for match against Albania

ANTON ROGAN keeps his place in Northern Ireland's squad for the doubtful World Cup group nine qualifying match against Albania in Belfast on Saturday week. The Millwall defender received an eleventh hour call-up last month when Keith Rowland was taken ill and pulled out of the trip to Nuremberg.

The former Sunderland and Celtic player then went on against Germany as a second-half substitute for Neil Lennon to make sure Bryan Hamilton's side gained a 1-1 draw.

Rowland, of West Ham United, rejoins what is an otherwise unchanged squad as Northern Ireland wait to see if the game goes ahead.

Hamilton said: "Anton did well in Germany and he's in again on merit. It was his first appearance for four years and he gave his international career the kiss of life."

The Irish FA has been told by Fifa to carry on as normal while negotiations aimed at lifting Albania's ban from the World Cup continue.

Last week the Tirana government suspended the Albanian FA secretary and his executive committee. Albania's Sports Minister claimed the FA had flouted civil law by not holding elections for committee places. But Fifa insisted it would not tolerate political interference and called for the suspended officials to be reinstated.

The Albanians have been given until Saturday to comply, although the IEA is pressing for a decision within the next 48 hours and remains optimistic that the match will proceed as planned. Hamilton said: "I'm proceeding on the basis that the game will be played."

Against Albania Northern Ireland are looking for their first home World Cup win after losing to Ukraine and drawing with Armenia at Windsor Park.

Nigel Worthington, of Stoke City, has to prove his fitness this week during training with his club. He could not play in Germany because of back trouble and has not appeared in any games since.

SQUAD: 1 Wright (Nottingham Forest), A Fells (Nottingham Forest), N Worthington, S Middleton (Stoke City), A Rogan (Millwall), K Gillespie (Newcastle United), M Hughes, I Davies, K Rowland (all West Ham United), N Lennon, C For (both Leicester City), S Lomas (Manchester City), G Taggart (Stoke City), B Hunter (Reading), G Harte (Reading), T Harte (Stoke City), D Giffey (Stoke City), S McNamee (Reading), I Nolan (Sheff Wed).

Anderton struck by new injury setback

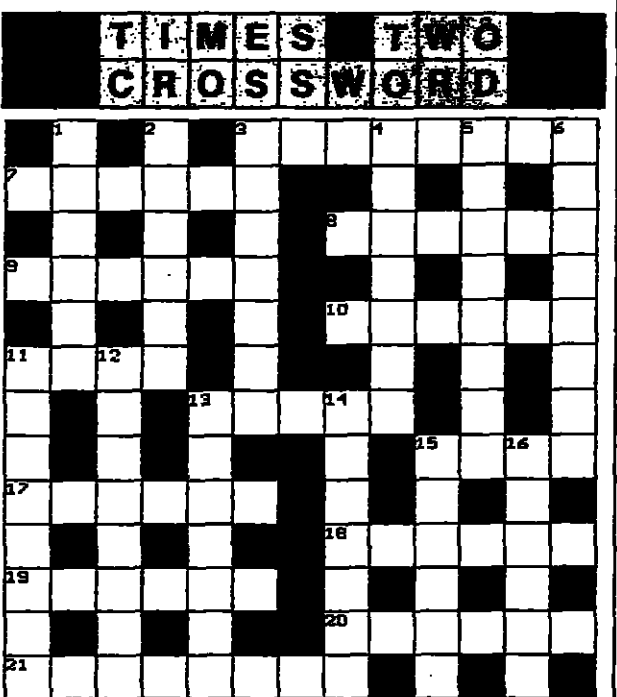
DARREN ANDERTON, the England and Tottenham Hotspur midfielder player, could be sidelined until the new year (Russell Kempton writes). He twisted a medial ligament in his left knee during the 6-1 Coca-Cola Cup fourth-round defeat against Bolton Wanderers last week and is not expected to play again for at least four weeks.

Anderton, 24, has been plagued by injuries over the past two seasons. Groin surgery restricted him to only nine club appearances last term, though he recovered in time to feature in England's five matches during Euro 96. He has fared little better this season and, after playing eight games, he had another operation — his fourth since he moved from Portsmouth for

£1.75 million four years ago — to repair a hernia. In his third game back, at Burnley last Wednesday, he was injured again.

Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, received better news yesterday when Steffen Iversen, the Norway Under-21 and Rosenborg striker, signed a five-year contract at White Hart Lane. The clubs have agreed a fee of £2.6 million for one of Europe's most highly-rated youngsters. He could make his debut against Coventry City at Highfield Road on Saturday.

Middlesbrough confirmed yesterday that they made a bid for the Barcelona defender, Miguel Angel Nadal, although the sum involved was not revealed. Manchester United also want to sign Nadal.



No 955

ACROSS

- 3 Impediment (8)
- 7 Chessman, symbol N (6)
- 8 Lengthen (6)
- 9 Savoury mouthful (6)
- 10 (Wonderful; imaginary) sight (6)
- 11 Cheeky (4)
- 13 Force out (esp. with thumb) (5)
- 15 Personal belongings: toothed wheel system (4)
- 17 Trusted (older) advisor (6)
- 18 High point (of sky) (6)
- 19 Burning (with zeal, love) (6)
- 20 Utterly delight: rape (6)
- 21 Four-year inter-games period (5)

DOWN

- 1 Hire; join (battle) (6)
- 2 Horrified (6)
- 3 Shakespeare's Moor (7)
- 4 A woven fabric (7)
- 5 Plausible (8)
- 6 Put at risk (5)
- 11 Graphical: leadwort (8)
- 12 For which one saves up (5,3)
- 13 Adult (5,2)
- 14 (Bird's) muscular stomach (7)
- 15 Red Cross HQ city (6)
- 16 Swear to (truth of) (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 954

ACROSS: 1 Quisus 5 Bijou 8 Agile 9 Overseer 10 Eldorado 11 Rind 13 State-of-the-art 16 Page 17 Corridor 20 Palermo 21 Crack 22 Lucky 23 Rockery

DOWN: 1 Quakers 2 Iliad 3 Theories 4 Sword of Honour 5 Bier 6 Jessica 7 Upland 12 Thoracic 14 Angelic 15 Turkey 16 Pupil 18 Drape 19 Prey

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